

Douglas Hogg arrives in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — British Foreign Office Minister Douglas Hogg arrived Sunday at the start of a four-day Middle East swing. A British embassy spokesman quoted by the Associated Press said the 21-month-old Arab-Israeli peace talks would dominate Mr. Hogg's conversations with Jordanian officials. "It is an important time in the peace process and Mr. Hogg wants to hear the Jordanian viewpoint regarding the peace process," said the spokesman, Mark Legoy. During his three-day visit, Mr. Hogg will meet with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent. He also will hold talks with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali and other officials. Mr. Hogg will visit Israel and meet with Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories before returning to London later in the week. "One of the things we will be talking about will be the peace process, to see what progress has been made," Mr. Hogg told reporters as he left London's Heathrow airport for Amman. He said he will meet with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

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جريدة الأردنية للأنباء عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

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ROYAL JORDANIAN

YOUR WINDOW ON THE WORLD.

Yemen begins locust spraying

SANA (AP) — Foreign aid agencies and officials from Yemen's Ministry of Agriculture have begun aerial spraying of areas of eastern Yemen worst hit by locusts. The swarms must be sprayed just before sunset, when they have settled for the night, or within two hours after dawn, before they move on. "I think there'll be a substantial number that can't be caught because they keep moving," said Keith Cressman, locust reporting and forecasting officer from the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) headquarters in Rome. Helicopters used in the spraying were provided by the German aid agency Gesellschaft fuer Technische Zusammenarbeit and the British Overseas Development Agency.

1 killed in Sindh blasts

KARACHI (AFP) — A series of bomb blasts and grenade attacks rocked southern Pakistan's Sindh province Sunday, killing a civilian, injuring nine others and damaging several army camps, police and army sources said. At least four bombs went off in the countryside including one in Shikarpur, killing a villager, police said. Eight others were injured. Another low intensity device exploded in Ubaro in northern Sukkur city, but no casualties were reported, they said. Two more bombs rocked Kotri, some 125 kilometres north of here late Saturday, police said.

Iran denies link to U.S. bombing

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran's ambassador to the United Nations, Kamal Kharazi, has rejected an Egyptian charge that Tehran gave the go-ahead for the World Trade Centre bombing in New York. An Egyptian official told New York Times newspaper that Mahmud Abu Halima, among six people indicted for the bombing, confessed Iranian intelligence agents had approved the attack at a meeting in Peshawar, Pakistan. Mr. Kharazi, quoted in Tehran newspapers Sunday, denied any Iranian links with "terrorist" groups and said the confession was invalid because it had been extracted under duress. "This is not the first time Cairo is accusing another country for its problems, and Egypt will not be able to rein in the spontaneous uprising of its people" by blaming Iran, he said.

Iran holds 3 on spying charges

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran has arrested two Indians and an Iraqi in the southern province of Kerman on charges of espionage. Kayhan newspaper reported Sunday. A Kerman intelligence chief told the paper that the three foreigners were arrested in February and March. He gave no names but said they tried to infiltrate official organisations.

Russian pretenders agree to DNA tests

LONDON (R) — A man who claims to be the great-grandson of murdered Russian Tsar Nicholas II has agreed to undergo DNA tests to prove his ancestry, his spokesman said on Sunday. Spanish resident Prince Alexis, 45, who says his mother Princess Olga-Beata is the daughter of one of the tsar's five children, has been approached by a group of Russian scientists and historians trying to determine the fate of the Romanov family. "Prince Alexis and Princess Olga-Beata know the tests will prove positive otherwise they would not subject themselves to the embarrassment and indignity of being proved wrong," spokesman Frank Peters said.

3 tonnes of morphine seized in Iran

NICOSIA (R) — Security forces seized three tonnes of morphine in the Naceen desert region of central Iran last week, an official said Sunday. The Iranian news agency IRNA also quoted Brigadier Mohammad Taefi, commander of law enforcement forces in Esfahan, as saying a total of 40 tonnes of various types of drugs was seized during the last Iranian year which ended in March.

PLO is studying confederation idea

Arab negotiators to meet in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Arab parties to peace talks with Israel will meet in Beirut after a Middle East visit by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in early August, Egypt's foreign minister said Sunday.

Amr Musa said Palestinian negotiators and the foreign ministers of the frontline states with Israel — Lebanon, Syria, Egypt and Jordan — would attend the meeting ahead of a new round of the talks.

Mr. Musa was speaking to reporters after talks in Beirut with his Lebanese counterpart Faris Bouez on the peace talks, trade and relations.

He said he would deliver a message to Lebanese President Elias Hrawi from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Israel has proposed limited autonomy for the Palestinians under which they would control activities such as education and medical care until a final agreement can be reached on the future of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is committed to two stages of negotiations, first for the interim period and then for the permanent arrangement.

But Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin told Israeli Television that discussing a confederation agreement did not necessarily contradict negotiations for an interim agreement.

"Jordan is committed to the idea of confederation, the Palestinians are committed to the idea of confederation, the (governing) Labour Party has said it is willing to go the way of confederation," Mr. Beilin said Friday.

"If there really is a common camp, regarding the character of the permanent solution, not in details, but in principle it could be a very important factor in advancing the negotiations," he said.

The Palestinian-Israeli talks have faltered principally over the issue of Jerusalem.

"I say here and now, there is no peace without Jerusalem," Dr. Abdul Shafiq told a group of Jerusalem Muslim clerics Friday. "The Americans and the Israelis must understand this."

Meanwhile, it was revealed Saturday that members of the current Israeli government were meeting with PLO officials in 1987, six years before a law ban-

ning such meetings was lifted.

Lawmaker Dedi Zucker of the Meretz party met with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in 1987, a year ago.

A public meeting in 1990 between Mr. Arafat and senior members of Meretz, then in opposition, was squelched when the PLO was not more forthcoming on concessions to Israel, the radio said.

The ban on meetings with the PLO was lifted in January this year. At least 20 legislators have met with the PLO, and a majority of coalition legislators favour direct talks with the organisation, which is frozen out of direct participation in the peace talks.

In Damascus, a hardline Palestinian group Sunday rejected the proposals for Jordanian-Palestinian confederation.

The PFLP is leading an alliance

opposed to the talks.

"We will continue our talks," he told reporters as he left for the meeting.

Asked if he would have further discussions on Monday, Mr. Ekeus replied: "It depends on the developments in today's talks."

Earlier Sunday, Mr. Ekeus, who heads the United Nations Special Commission to disarm Iraq (UNSCOM), met for an hour with Iraqi officials to avert a clash on missile monitoring, saying only that the outcome depends on how the discussions go.

"That would not be unrealistic," one source told Reuters when asked if a deal was in the works.

Mr. Ekeus, who had originally planned to leave Baghdad on Sunday, has said he would stay as

long as his presence was still productive.

Mr. Ekeus has made clear he has not come to negotiate U.N. resolutions.

But U.N. sources have said

Baaghdad could find a way out of the crisis by offering proposals which complied with a U.N. resolution.

"We have to be sure that these sites are not being used and if we're not sure then we have to be able to monitor them. Any proposals that meet that criteria will be considered," one source told Reuters.

"The talks are not concluded, so we have to continue the work," Mr. Ekeus told reporters after Sunday's morning meeting.

Mr. Ekeus met with Tareq Aziz, Iraq's deputy prime minister and the country's main international negotiator, and Foreign Ministry officials.

Mr. Ekeus said they were

joined by Riyadh Al Qaisi, Foreign Minister under-secretary and head of the Iraqi delegation con-

ducting talks with the United Nations in New York on a one-

day sale of oil.

Diplomats in New York said

last week that Iraq was close to

agreement on a deal to sell \$1.6

billion in oil to finance the pur-

chase of food and medicine as well

Baaghdad has argued that an

U.S. Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs Hershel Gober helps Vietnamese war victim Huynh Van Ly to put on a leg prosthetic during a visit Sunday to a vocational training centre for handicapped in Ho Chi Minh

City. Mr. Ly lost his legs when he marched over a mine. Mr. Gober and U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Winston Lord lead a presidential mission in Hanoi since Thursday for talks (AFP photo)

Ekeus resumes talks in Iraq; prospects uncertain

Combined agency despatches

BAGHDAD — U.N. disarmament chief Rolf Ekeus began a new round of talks with Iraqi officials Sunday evening to avert a clash on missile monitoring, saying only that the outcome depends on how the discussions go.

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Egyptian mounts futile challenge to Mubarak

By John West

Reuter
ALEXANDRIA, Egypt — Kamel Ahmad, Egypt's other presidential candidate, is used to being called mad.

"The first time I mentioned the idea, my family looked at me in a funny way as though I had violated the sanctuary of the temple. But why? If Egypt is a democracy, why is it sacilege to stand against the president? If I'm mad, then maybe we need more madness," the 52-year-old businessman told Reuters.

Mr. Ahmad is a known political eccentric. His biggest claim to fame is that he is running at all, a maverick talkaholic campaigning out of a fifth-floor office in an Alexandria back street against a huge state apparatus that openly backs President Hosni Mubarak.

Ninety-seven per cent of Egypt's parliamentary deputies have already endorsed Mr.

Mubarak, who needs only two-thirds support in a debate on Wednesday to be nominated as the only candidate in an October referendum for another six years in power.

Under Egyptian law as currently interpreted, parliament chooses only one candidate to put to the referendum. Voters will receive a ballot paper with Mr. Mubarak's name and a choice of "Yes" or "No."

The state radio and television monopoly and state-owned newspapers have run a stream of propaganda for months praising Mr. Mubarak's achievements during 12 years of rule and proclaiming the "homage" of nearly every civil institution to him.

A youth leader in late President Gamal Abdul Nasser's one-party state of the 1960s, Mr. Ahmad was a deputy in the 1970s and was thrown out of the chamber twice for trying to interrupt the late President Anwar Sadat as he addressed

parliament.

He says he is still a nasserite — a two-metre photograph of the Arab nationalist hero adorns his modest office — but has adapted to the needs of the 1990s, ditching state control of the economy for free market policies and authoritarian rule for political pluralism.

"My slogan is 'development, democracy and human rights,'" he said. "Without these, the citizen becomes alienated from his country, loses his sense of belonging and the result is backwardness. We have seen enough of this in Egypt."

Government officials, more attuned to Egypt's underlying reality of one-man rule than its superstructure of multi-party democracy, scoffed at Mr. Ahmad for even trying to run a campaign, calling him "mad."

Mr. Ahmad has started a lawsuit against Parliament Speaker Fathi Sorour for not passing on his programme to

deputies to allow them the chance of studying it and says he has been denied access to media to put his case.

"I can't get a single second on television because of the monopoly of power. Yet to the best of my knowledge (Mubarak) has not put forward a programme to be judged on. He's been elected blind," said Mr. Ahmad.

The small, energetic campaigner says he is not against Mr. Mubarak, in power since Sadat was assassinated in 1981, and personally respects him.

"The president has my personal appreciation but I differ and am critical on his policies which have led to less jobs, severe recession in the market and emergency laws," he said.

"In India, when terrorists killed Rajiv Gandhi, they had emergency law for two or three months. We've had it for 12 years."

Mr. Ahmad says he will ignore Wednesday's vote and

campaign around the country while his lawyers contest the constitutionality of October's one-man referendum. He will urge a boycott of the referendum if it goes ahead.

His rhetoric targets middle-aged, middle-class civil servants who for decades were the backbone of Egypt's political class but now feel atomized and increasingly threatened by the transfer of power to the private sector.

"I have to carry on regardless of everything. The individual at the level of a middle manager or an undersecretary in the civil service, with two or three children, cannot live a normal life. He and his family are crushed," Mr. Ahmad said.

He handed a reporter a cup of tea he made himself and vowed: "I've been in politics for 30 years and I'll be here for another 30 years. One day I'm going to be president of this country."

Children thrust into making a living in occupied Gaza

OCCUPIED GAZA STRIP (AFP) — Khalil Abu Al Kher toils eight hours a day, six days a week in a sweaty back-street factory on the edge of a ramshackle Palestinian refugee camp. He is 12 years old.

"Our family is in a bad way," said Khalil, from Shati. "My father isn't working and I have eight brothers. The youngest is 18 months."

He left school and started work a year ago cleaning and doing odd jobs for a sub-contractor making T-shirts for Israel.

One of three boys among 10 workers in the cramped premises, Khalil is just one of thousands of youngsters forced to sell their labour on the occupied Gaza Strip.

Since the army closed the occupied territories at the end of March, throwing tens of thousands of adults out of work, more and more children have been thrust into the struggle to help their families eke out a living.

Khalil earns 150 shekels (\$53) a month. His two brothers, aged 15 and 16, pull in 100 shekels each.

The police have taken my father's identity card," Khalil said, not knowing why, only that it means he cannot find work.

"I feel responsible for my family," he mumbled, looking down past his ragged T-shirt and torn dirty shorts to plastic sandals.

"I want to be a tailor to earn more money," he said, tired and drawn.

Mary Khaas, Gaza Strip direc-

tor of Early Childhood Programmes, despairs before the dilemma of child labour.

"It is better for our children to work and try to survive or for us to shout and say this is exploitation? I just don't know," she admitted.

Children earn between five and 15 shekels a day. "Five shekels does not even buy enough bread for a family," said Ms. Khaas.

Israel's military administration, the sole authority in Gaza, simply turns a blind eye. There are no statistics on the numbers involved.

In occupied Jerusalem, where the phenomenon is far less widespread, police last week rounded up 37 Palestinians under the age of 13 and four employers in the Jewish market. After a stiff talking to, all were back at work within a few hours.

"According to the law, children under 14 are not allowed to work," said the Gaza military spokeswoman. "I know you see children working everywhere in Gaza. The law is just not really enforced, there are no local police."

When nine-year-old Ataf's father lost his job in the closure, he sent his son out selling bottles of orange for a shekel at a profit of three cents.

Ataf wanders under the burning sun around the Gaza side of the Erez crossing into Israel. Each bottle sold brings in 10 agorot or about three U.S. cents.

"It is better than doing nothing," said Ataf. "I don't want to be where the army opens fire,

but it's very hard here."

Wissim Abu Issa, 12, runs the family stall outside Gaza's Shifa hospital with a 15-year-old brother.

"My dad has been in jail for three years and no one else could help my mother except my brother and me." His father is serving seven years for membership of Islamic Jihad.

The brothers work together peddling drinks, chocolates and cigarettes from 5 a.m. until 8 p.m., and their faces betray real fatigue.

Wissim, who also has two sisters aged 10 and 14, and brothers aged four and six, hopes to return to school after the holidays, fitting classes in between hours at the stall.

"Yes I'm tired," he sighed. "I wish I could stay at home and have lunch with my mother."

He dreams of becoming a lawyer. "When I grow up I want to defend my people."

Ms. Khaas explained: "So many of these children become independent, the main support of the family.

"Employers are suffering financially and cannot afford to pay the fathers. It's cheaper and easier to employ children."

"It's been bad since the intifada." It worsened during the Gulf war with 42 days of curfew, then it improved a little, but since the closure it's worse than ever.

"It may be worse in Egypt or other countries but here it is very new and the closure has made it far worse."

U.N. envoy ends Cyprus trip cautiously optimistic

NICOSIA (R) — U.N. envoy Joe Clark ended his first visit to Cyprus Sunday saying he was cautiously optimistic a U.N. package to build confidence between rival Greek and Turkish Cypriots would be accepted.

"I believe there will be an acceptance. What exact hour, what exact date I can't predict," he told Greek and Turkish Cypriot reporters at a news conference in the U.N.-controlled Nicosia buffer zone.

"If you are asking what my conclusion is, is it optimistic, is it pessimistic, it is cautiously optimistic," he added.

The former Canadian prime minister said implementation of the package would benefit both communities and work as a catalyst for an overall settlement.

"(The package) will bring benefits to each side and to both. If it is implemented it will represent the most important step forward in Cyprus in almost 20 years," he said.

Cyprus has been divided since 1974 when Turkish troops seized its northern third in wake of a short-lived coup in Nicosia backed by the military junta then ruling Greece.

The U.N. is trying to reunite the island as a federation. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali thought he was close to getting approval for measures that would start an economic and political rapprochement between the two communities.

They included placing part of the uninhabited resort town of Varosha, where Greek-Cypriots

once lived, and reopening Nicosia airport under U.N. control.

Cypriot President Glafcos Clerides, who represents Greek-Cypriots, has accepted the measures in principle.

Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash asked for time to promote acceptance of the package.

But U.N.-sponsored talks between Mr. Clerides and Mr. Denktash, due to resume in June, were postponed. Mr. Denktash has since quit as negotiator.

As Mr. Clark spoke 400 Greek-Cypriots refugees from the village of Phylia staged a protest west of Nicosia. About 100 broke through police cordons and entered the buffer zone but were stopped by U.N. peacekeepers.

Mr. Clark and his deputy Gustav Feissel were to leave Cyprus for Athens later Sunday. They will visit Ankara later this week.

They have nice suits, they talk nice, but I don't believe them any more," Awad said.

Interviews with people who know him and with government officials paint Awad, 51, as a highly charged personality who has fallen victim to bureaucratic red tape, cultural differences, security constraints and insensitivity.

Everyone — the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the FBI, the Justice Department, the State Department — promised to help. Awad said in a telephone interview from the town where he lives in hiding with his wife, Lynn.

The State Department says Awad's reward is under review — and has been for several years.

The Justice Department, which also makes recommendations on such awards, declined to comment. The FBI says Awad certainly deserves the money but that it's not up the bureau to make the decision.

Equally puzzling is why Awad — who is effectively stateless — isn't being granted citizenship so he can obtain a passport to travel. The Immigration and Naturalization Service says the treatment he has gotten could have broader repercussions beyond Awad's personal disappointment.

It is particularly important to reward him so that others know that the United States honours such heroism and are encouraged to come forward," he wrote last month to the State Department programme that offers awards for information leading to the conviction of international extremists.

One official said Awad was probably due between \$500,000 and \$750,000.

The State Department says Awad's reward is under review — and has been for several years.

The Justice Department, which

has confirmed by several government and congressional officials.

Last year she did get into the embassy but was turned away after a brief hearing in the visa office. Awad threatened to refuse to testify in Greece unless the visa was arranged.

The government pressed him to change his mind, promising — again — that it would help with the visa.

About 10 days ago, the sister's visa request was turned down again. This time, she did go through the process at the embassy to be told at the end that she did not have sufficient financial collateral in Syria to ensure that she would return there and not remain in the United States.

"Six years and they can't get a visitor visa for my sister?" Awad asks with disbelief.

The government did get one of his brothers into the country — after he was arrested in Iraq and almost hanged because Awad supplied the CIA information during the Gulf war about Iraqi

underground bunkers. Awad's company in Baghdad helped build the bunkers.

Another brother — the one seeking the visa — was expelled from Libya because of Awad's "treason."

Meanwhile, Awad's father became ill. Awad asked the FBI for permission to travel to see his father on his deathbed. Citing concern for his life, the FBI refused.

"We had to reach a delicate balance between his desire for freedom and our need to protect his life," Mr. Gallagher said.

Awad's father subsequently died.

Gallagher said the FBI has stepped in numerous times to accommodate Awad's requests, including "banging on doors" of other agencies in such matters as the visas for his siblings.

"I know how irritating and restrictive it's been for him," says Gallagher. "But what's important to me is that he's alive today to complain about it."

Iranian opposition warns of growing discontent

TEHRAN (Agencies) — The opposition Iranian Liberation Movement (ILM) has warned of "growing popular discontent" here and called on President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani to ensure "respect for civil liberties."

In a statement issued Saturday, the ILM, which is headed by former Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan, said it was "disturbed" by the political situation in Iran.

The ILM said Mr. Rafsanjani, who was elected for a second term in June, had to confront "an economic crisis, widespread corruption in the administration, growing popular discontent and unprecedented stagnation in the industrial sector."

"The people are wondering where you are taking them," the ILM said in a call to Mr. Rafsanjani to ensure "respect for civil liberties and laws for the people as a whole, and not just for (government) supporters."

The ILM again cast doubt on the fairness of June elections, citing the "intervention of the Council of Experts," which is charged with constitutional overview, to decide on the eligibility of candidates as well as on the absence of opposition political parties and figures.

The ILM, in common with all other Iranian opposition movements both inside the country and in exile, boycotted the elections.

Iran's supreme leader urged the country's security forces Saturday to do their duty and crack down on anyone threatening internal security or public order.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei made his remarks in a speech to mark law enforcement forces day at a graduation ceremony at the Military Science Academy, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported.

"The supreme leader urged them to fulfil their tasks carefully and severely encounter those trying to disrupt public order, violate the privacy of families and create a climate of insecurity in the society," it said.

Iran sues Swedish radio

Iran has filed a lawsuit against an unnamed Swedish local radio station accusing it of inciting violence against supporters of the Islamic republic, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported.

The agency said the June 11 broadcast broke Swedish law and added that the Iranian embassy in Stockholm had started the action on Friday with the aim of revoking the station's licence through the courts.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraqi opposition claims village wiped out

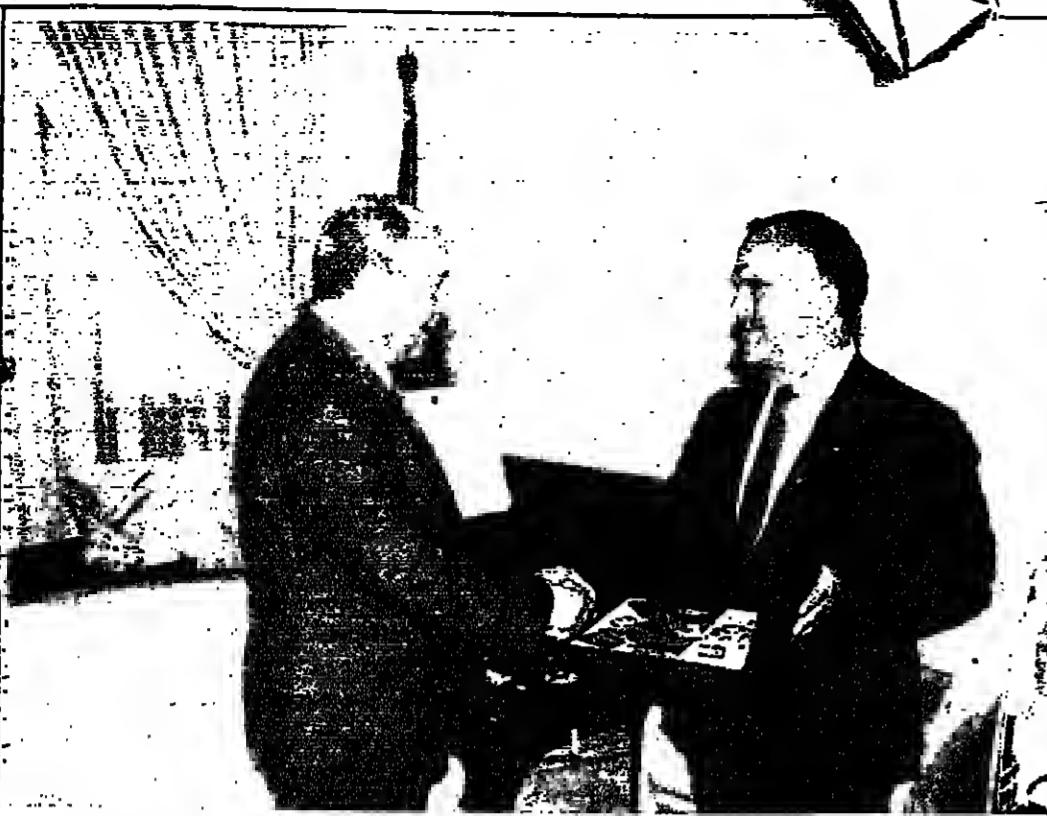
NICOSIA (AP) — An Iraqi opposition source says the Iraqi army has wiped out a small village in the southern marches, Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency reported. The agency in a Saturday night dispatch said that just 24 families survived the attack on Hasharia by Iraqi infantry and artillery units. The date of the alleged attack and the number of victims were not given. The village was said to be near the southern Iraqi town of Al Amarah, which is 150 kilometres northwest of Basra. It was destroyed; the Iraqi opposition source was quoted as saying. The Iranian news agency compared the incident to the March 18, 1988, attack on the Kurdish village of Halabja in northern Iraq in which hundreds were killed, many by toxic chemicals. There was no suggestion in the report on Hasharia that chemicals were involved. There was no way to independently confirm the report, as Iraq seldom takes reporters or observers to the area and few risk crossing the border from Iran. Thousands of Shi'ite Muslims have taken refuge in the marches since a failed rebellion against the regime of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein following the 1991 Gulf war. The Western allies have set up a "no-fly" zone over the area to protect the sheltering rebels. But the pilots — whose mission is to keep the skies clear of Iraqi aircraft — often are unable to monitor ground action and seldom make observations public. IRNA said the 24 surviving families had taken refuge in southern Iran, where hundreds of other Shi'ite Muslims also have fled.

Akhbar Al Khaleej ordered closed for three days

BAHRAIN (AP) — Bahrain's Arabic-language newspaper Akhbar Al Khaleej was ordered closed for three days for publishing a graphic depicting a series of tiny islands disputed by Bahrain and Qatar, it was reported Saturday. The ban commences Sunday, Information Ministry officials said. Editors of the paper refused to comment on the closure order. The graphic ran with a story on harnessing a vast wealth of natural gas in the Gulf region. The graphic shows the peninsula of Qatar, with the disputed Hawar Islands abutting its coast and gas fields marked on scattered locations of the hinterland. Akhbar Al Khaleej was accused of playing up Qatar's contention that Hawar is an integral part of its territory. Bahrain argues that the islands belong to it by virtue of demarcations dating back to the first half of this century.

1 killed by grenades in Turkish resort

ANKARA (AFP) — One person was killed and at least two were injured in three grenade attacks Saturday night on hotels at Antalya, a tourist resort on Turkey's Mediterranean coast, according to reports here. The first explosion was at 21:20 (18:20 GMT) and was followed by two others either inside



FORMER MAYOR HONOURED: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday received at the Royal Court former Amman Mayor Mohammad Al Bashir, who resigned July 13. The Regent commended the efforts of Mr. Bashir while serving as mayor and decorated him

with the Jordanian Al Kawhah Medal of the First Order. Mr. Bashir, who was succeeded by former Health Minister Mamduh Al Abbadi, announced he was resigning because he plans to run in the next legislative elections



Arab Children's Congress Sunday concludes its 13th annual meeting in Amman at the University of Jordan (Petra photo)

Arab children's congress calls for region's nations to close ranks

AMMAN (J.T.) — The 13th Arab Children's Congress ended in Amman Sunday with a call from the participating children on Arab countries to close their ranks for the sake of confronting the present challenges and protecting the future of the Arab nation.

Concluding their week-long activities, organised by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), the children, representing eight Arab states, emphasised the need for Arab unity which, they said, should draw on the common Arab heritage, history and values.

The congress, an annual event initiated by Her Majesty Queen Noor in 1980, stressed the importance of interaction with past Arab history, retaining and strengthening cultural heritage, encouraging the Arab language and its literature and upholding

Arab traditions as a way of regaining the strength of the Arab Nation.

The children also called on Arab countries to open up to other cultures and benefit from the experiences of the advanced nations.

They urged the United Nations to implement its resolutions on Palestine and end the "unjust" embargo being imposed on Iraq and the Iraqi children.

The children held their final session at the University of Jordan, where they met with Suliman Arabyat, the university's vice president for Administrative Affairs, who described the annual event as a model gathering for Arab unity.

NHF Deputy Director Abdulla Hindawi distributed meritocratic certificates to the children, and the supervisors of children's

groups from Iraq, Oman and Egypt presented Mr. Hindawi with token gifts in recognition of Queen Noor's efforts to bring Arab children together and the Iraqi children.

The young congress participants, who came from Tunisia, Algeria, Iraq, Oman, Syria, Palestine, Egypt and Jordan, sent a cable to the Queen expressing their deep appreciation of the hospitality accorded them in Jordan and the opportunity to promote the social, educational and health services, added the minister in an address at the opening of a training workshop on analysing population growth in the Kingdom.

Organised by the National Population Commission (NPC) in cooperation with the European Community (EC), the workshop is expected to review working papers on population growth, fertility, mortality and migration rates and future trends among other topics.

Mr. Ghzawi told the participants that the population factor is a basic element of the comprehensive development concept since no genuine development

can be achieved without the presence and the contribution of the human element.

The NPC's Secretary General Nabil Salameh told a population conference here last April that Jordan witnesses a 3.4 per cent

population growth annually.

Jordan's high population growth rate makes it imperative that decision-makers study the demographic, social and economic changes before planning for further socio-economic development, said the minister.

Such growth rates constitute the cornerstone in the construction of societies because the numerical increases in population mean further demands on services, Mr. Ghzawi added.

He thanked the EC for financing the workshop and Her Royal Highness Princess Basma for her continued backing of the National Population Commission's endeavours.

Mr. Salameh told the opening session that the commission plans to hold a series of activities in the coming months, including one about birth-spacing, to prepare for a national conference on population due to be held before the end of next year.

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Breaking the fall

DESPITE MISGIVINGS, many in the Third World, Jordan included, had welcomed the American-led initiative to deploy military force in Somalia late last year if only because the move meant that the starving millions in the lawless, chaotic Horn of Africa country had a chance to survive hunger and starvation.

Now, seven months after the U.S.-led United Nations force went in, what we see in Somalia is a near-return to square one; food is there, but little of it gets to the hungry since the bulk of the soldiers who are supposed to offer protection to food distribution are locked in a bloody conflict with the same people who are supposed to benefit from the international assistance.

Any consolation that the conflict is limited to the Somali capital, Mogadishu, is ill-founded. It is only a matter of time before vested interests in the rest of the country, long used to the law of the gun, would rise up and challenge the U.N. force.

We would hate to say "we told you so," but the reality on the ground in Mogadishu today only underlines the simple fact that while the hungry Somali people had received the U.N. forces as their benefactors, the well-fed Somali warlords and politicians saw the big powers grouped under the U.N. flag as instruments to further their political ambitions. But, as things turned out, their expectations were quashed since few external forces were taken to the offer of influence in the devastated country despite its strategic geographic location. And hence the bloodshed and the emerging Somali calls for the forces to go home.

Today, the international community finds itself in a conundrum. Can it continue to use military force to destroy the firepower of warlords with one hand while dispensing food with the other? What are the justifications of such an approach?

It may be easy to believe that the capture or death of one warlord or another might take the teeth out of militias left without leaders, but the key element that should be first taken into consideration is the deep-rooted tribal links that bind the Somali people into various factions. It means that eliminating or getting a warlord out of the way will not necessarily force his group into its knees.

The approach has to be definitely different, decisive and swift. We do not have any magic solutions to the situation, but would venture to suggest that the elders council which has been pondering over the means to found a new political system in Somalia could be a starting point. Let the Western and American military leaders take a step back (burying indeed what they would definitely see as demeaning given the fact that the Somalis are black) and allow the elders, who represent all mainstream Somali tribes and clans, decide by consensus where force has to be used and how much.

We do not know whether this is the right answer, but we do know that the present cat-and-mouse game being played out in Mogadishu means only one thing: As every day passes, the entire U.N. operation is slipping into an abyss.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Sunday commented on a planned visit to the region, next month, by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher by saying that the Arab parties can only welcome the U.S. secretary and listen to his views, but said the daily, Western officials have been coming and going for so long, trying, as they say, to better understand the situation and give impetus to the peace process and nothing has been achieved. All these visits and contacts between the Arabs and the Western nations did not help find a solution to the problem and did not make Israel comply with U.N. resolutions on the Middle East since 1967, the paper continued. Israel, backed by the United States, is still intransigent in its position and refuses to open the door for a genuine peace, based on the international legitimacy and U.N. resolutions, the paper added. As long as the Americans and their friends have not grown tired of reiterating their statements and their pledges, the Arabs, for their part, have no alternative but to reiterate their just stand vis-a-vis the Middle East issue, added the paper. The Western envoys come and go to the region at a time when their governments carry out atrocities against the Somali people, allow the Muslims of Bosnia to be murdered and starve the Iraqi population, the paper said. We welcome a visit by the U.S. secretary to the region, we are careful not to try to antagonise him and the other envoys, but, the paper said, only when signs appear that the Western governments are truly oriented towards bringing about a just peace and forcing Israel to comply with the international legitimacy, can we believe in the statements about their declared intentions to help us reach a settlement.

AL DUSOUR tackled the situation in the Israeli held Arab lands now under Israeli siege. Israel's continued siege of the lands and its aim at starving the two million people there seem to be taken for granted by many parties and no one is raising any protest against the atrocity, said the daily. The area the worst affected by the starvation and the siege is the Gaza Strip where reports speak of horrible cases, added the paper. In light of these facts we can only turn our attention to those Arabs interested in normalising their relations with the Israeli enemy, added the daily. The starving population and the awful conditions of the Palestinians in general should take precedence over all other considerations, demanded the daily.

Weekly Political Pulse

By Waled Sadi

Unity — the sine qua non of a lasting solution to Palestine problem

The "Gaza first" approach, being orchestrated by Israel, could be prejudicial to the future of the negotiations on the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Given the fact that the burden of keeping Gaza Strip under Israeli rule is becoming unbearable from the Israeli point of view, accommodating the Rabin government on Gaza alone could in the final analysis diminish the Palestinian bargaining power regarding the fate of the rest of the occupied territories, including of course East Jerusalem. That is why the Arab side needs to establish a direct and organic link between a solution to the Gaza dimension of the Palestinian conflict and the rest of the aspects of the case before the situation is taken seriously. It is also hardly possible for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to administer and rule a small strip of land populated by hundreds of thousands of impoverished Palestinians without the support from the West Bank where the economy is relatively robust and is still amenable to rapid development. Gaza Strip per se is not viable economically or politically and needs to be united in terms of its economy and other infrastructure to the rest of Palestine in order to be able to function and prosper sufficiently enough for the purpose of attaining a certain degree of stability.

The Palestinian side is not likely to reject a settlement over Gaza outright even under the worst conditions. The best course for the PLO is therefore to welcome an early resolution of the strip problem on condition that the future of the West Bank and East Jerusalem also be resolved within a specific time framework.

To be sure, hoisting the Palestinian flag over Gaza would boost the morale of the Palestinians and may end up boosting the chances of peace elsewhere as well. The Palestinian state of mind would be positively influenced in the event of even a partial settlement of the problem of the Palestinian territories now in their third decade under Israeli occupation.

On the other hand, the resolution of this limited dimension of the Palestinian territories may still trigger a simmering conflict between the Gazans and the rest of the Palestinians, should the fate of the West Bank and East Jerusalem remain hanging in the balance. A "Gaza first" approach may indeed prompt the Gazans to start thinking in terms of "Gazans first" vis-a-vis their brothers,

and sisters in the West Bank as well as in the diaspora. After so many decades of separation, one cannot take for granted a commonality of interests between the Gazans and the other Palestinians. We have already encountered some occasions where the Gaza Strip chose to be represented by its own dignitaries rather than accept an overall Palestinian delegation to represent them. The last episode occurred when Palestinian delegations came to Amman to congratulate His Majesty King Hussein on the 40th anniversary of his accession to the throne. The Gazans, it will be recalled, preferred to speak for themselves rather than having one joint Palestinian delegation speak for all the Palestinians under occupation. That particular scene may lead to the conclusion that efforts need to be exerted to "reunite" Gaza with the West Bank if the envisaged Palestinian state is expected to see the light of day.

The moral of the story is that the "Gaza first" scheme is not so benign as it appears. While not recommending its rejection outright, it must be pursued with great care, vision and foresight. Otherwise, the Palestinian side would end up with more Palestinian division than they have bargained for. This is where the PLO needs to reassess itself as the only entity speaking for the Palestinians under occupation.

The Palestinians are prone to divisions that predate the Palestinian conflict and efforts need to be invested as of now to unify the Palestinian ranks in the occupied territories. The projected direct contacts between Israel and the PLO could advance Palestinian unity, something which is a sine qua non to any lasting resolution of the Palestinian case.

Israel has had a history of sowing discord between various Palestinian factions as a way to check the clout of the PLO in particular. This short-sighted Israeli policy has obviously backfired and there appears to be now a belated appreciation of the proposition that face to face dialogue with the PLO offers the most effective way for the resolution of the Palestinian situation. If this is really the case, then the "Gaza first" plan can be negotiated with the PLO directly rather than with any local party.

U.S.-Japan free trade agreement — probabilities, possibilities?

By Mohammad Abdalla Elqaq

THE U.S.-Japan trade history has been marked by tension. Both countries desire more trade, since it is mutually beneficial, but not at the expense of a healthy economic relationship. A U.S.-Japan Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is being studied as a possible alternative mechanism to increase trade between the two countries while minimising trade disputes.

Interest in a U.S.-Japan FTA is gaining considerable momentum. It was given conception when the U.S. ambassador to Japan, Mike Mansfield, presented the FTA idea as a solution to the mounting bitterness and frustration caused by the present item-by-item approach to trade talks. Branches of the government both in the U.S. and Japan are conducting official studies of the pros and cons of a free trade agreement. Academicians are increasingly conducting discussion and research on the topic. The business society is showing greater interest in making the Japan markets more "open". As the European Community (EC) settles more of the undecided issues, especially relating to foreign companies, and as the U.S.-Canada treaty takes effect, more attention and deeper examinations will be given to the idea of a U.S.-Japan FTA or "American".

From a political standpoint, both nations are more in favour of a Pacific area agreement. This seems more probable than just a U.S.-Japan FTA, especially since the EC is vowing not to let America be a "transhipment point for Japan". The politicians in Washington have proposed a "Pacific Coalition" to include the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Japan, Korea, Indonesia, Thailand and Australia. A U.S.-Japan FTA would cause some estrangement between Japan and the other Pacific nations, a position with which Japan would feel very uncomfortable. A U.S.-Pacific area agreement or as Senator Bill Bradley termed it, a "Pacific Coalition" would be more in line with the two nations' trade mission and desire to resolve world economic problems.

The need to look beyond today's Iraq

By Carlyle Murphy

CAIRO — The U.S. missile strike at the Iraqi intelligence services, a visible symbol of Saddam Hussein's power base, highlights what many Iraqis and others regard as the ambivalent side of U.S. policy towards Iraq — a lack of clear goals for political change there and the methods to attain it.

Iraqis themselves are divided over whether Saddam Hussein's demise would plunge the country into internal violence. But most agree that limiting the degree and duration of any such conflict would depend on two uncertain propositions: the willingness of regional powers like Iran, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Turkey to refrain from helping their proxies with arms and money; and the emergence of an Iraqi strongman who is high on law-and-order but keen on a transition to a truly democratic system.

Iraq's weight in the Arab World and its strategic scenario mean that a democratic scenario would have tremendous repercussions. It could be the spark that forces nearby authoritarian regimes to confront rising sectarian aspiration, demands for greater political participation and questioning of borders.

The lack of enthusiasm by Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey and Iran for such concepts as democracy, federalism and human rights is another obstacle to a post-Saddam democratic alternative.

U.S. officials, though, seem disinclined to face such complexities. Instead, since the end of the Gulf war, they have repeated, mantra-like, what they hope to see after Saddam Hussein.

"We support the establishment of democratic central government of national unity," Assistant Secretary of State Edward Djerejian has said. "We want to see a government in Baghdad which respects the human rights of all its citizens, is at peace with its neighbours and accepts the U.N. resolutions.

The United States has also given highly visible endorsement to what is probably the best-organised exiled Iraqi political opposition group, the Iraqi National Congress, an umbrella that includes Kurds, Shiites and Sunnis. The INC's platform of democratic federalism is perhaps a good solution for Iraq's ethnically diverse population, but the group still have organisational problems. And its leadership has untested, some say dubious, support inside Iraq.

It will, however, take much more than these meager American initiatives for the goals outlined by Mr. Djerejian to become realities. It will require sophisticated groundwork and sustained effort. Encouragement of democracy in Iraq will also have to be done in a context of encouraging liberalisation throughout the region, since Iraq's prospects are limited if it is surrounded by a sea of anti-democratic countries.

Among the huge obstacles to the emergence of the democratic alternative in Iraq is the woeful experience of the Iraqi people themselves. After almost 40 years of dictatorship that eliminated normal civil society and smothered political discourse, they are likely to need a lengthy period of public debate, interaction and political experimentation in order, as one Iraqi uni-

Saddam Hussein is gone? How will the United States ensure that Iraq's neighbours do not help turn Iraq into a new Bosnia? How far will America go to reduce the financial burden of war reparations and reconstruction that a new government will face?

Will it be prepared to pressure Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, both struggling with huge debt problems, to accept shrunken oil quotas to make room for Iraq's petroleum in the global market? What will be the U.S. position on the Kurds' demands for a federalised state, and how will this affect relations with Turkey?

Is Washington ready to shed its unfounded fears that an extension of full political rights to the

Shiites, including the Islamic parties among them, will mean the expansion of Iranian influence over Iraq? Such fears underestimate what has been the core dynamic of Iraqi politics since Iraq's birth, a fervently held nationalism.

In his new book on Iraq, "Cruelty and Silence," the Iraqi writer Kanan Makiya writes: "Iraqis like to think of peace and security as a great white dove which will one day descend upon them. But will it? That is the fundamental question of Iraqi politics today."

It is a question the United States also needs to ask — and help answer — The Washington Post.

TAIWAN'S BIG EAGLE SEAT IN HIGH GEAR

Taipei - The government of the Republic of China on Taiwan is intensifying its campaign for United Nations membership in the lead up to the U.N. General Assembly meeting scheduled to convene Sept. 21.

Opposition groups have demanded that Taiwan declare independence in order to reclaim full membership in the international community. The Kuomintang government has countered with a campaign designed both to support the unification of China and engineer the ROC's return to the United Nations.

The KMT has stressed all along that the Chinese Communists, with their permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council would veto any application for U.N. membership from the Taiwan area, whether under the ROC title, or as an independent country. At the same time, ruling party leaders realised that Taiwan residents demand international recognition of their hard-earned achievements.

In last September's U.N. General Assembly meeting, after intensive lobbying, nine friendly members spoke up for the ROC. It is reported that 22 friends will support the ROC's bid at this year's session.

Two officials spoke for the ROC's U.N. membership bid this past week: Foreign Minister Fredrick Chien, and Government Information Office Director-General Jason C. Hu.

Chien stated that results of his ministry's efforts will be in evidence at the upcoming session of the U.N. General Assembly. He made the statement on a news commentary show broadcast on domestic television July 4. The U.N. general debate where friendly nations are expected to voice their support for the ROC bid will kick off Sept. 29.

On the TV show, Chien said his ministry has formulated a plan to lead the ROC back to the world organisation. Participation in the United Nations was slated as his ministry's first priority, and aggressive lobbying got under way starting May of this year, he added.

The foreign minister was reluctant to reveal the contents of the plan. He said that keeping the plan secret would help forestall possible Chinese Communist obstruction.

He revealed, however, that his ministry is working to achieve several goals simultaneously: membership in U.N. peripheral organisations, observer status to the United Nations and full U.N. membership.

Chien showed unprecedented flexibility concerning the name under which the ROC would apply to join the United Nations. Instead of specifying a name, Chien said his ministry "has no predetermined position" and will keep its options open.

Chien said that were it not for the opposition of the Chinese Communists, most countries would be willing to support the ROC's return to the United Nations. He told the TV audience that the obstruction from Peking would make entering the United Nations a long fight.

At the same time, he said lobbying helps, and asked the public to solicit the support of foreign friends. He called on Taiwan residents to let the world know that it is unfair and wrong to leave the 20.8 million peace-loving people under ROC governance unrepresented in the United Nations.

Meanwhile, the GIO's Hu elaborated upon the same idea in Britain, where he traveled to promote the ROC's U.N. bid.

He told the British Broadcasting Corp. radio audience July 7 that the ROC's announcement of its intention to enter the United Nations not only demonstrated confidence and strength, but also reminded the international community that the Chinese Communists do not represent the people in Taiwan.

Hu said the issue of the representation of China was not solved in 1971 when the United Nations resolved to have the Chinese Communists take the seat formerly occupied by the ROC. The existence and prosperity of the Republic of China on Taiwan 22 years after the resolution is an obvious reminder of this fact.

Hu noted that ROC participation is in the United Nations would not hinder the ultimate unification of Taiwan and mainland China, but rather would help achieve that goal.

"If the ROC continues to be isolated by the international community, ROC citizens will be disappointed and may attempt to go their own way, which would reduce the possibility of unification of China," HU added.

The ROC dropped out of the United Nations when the Chinese Communists were seated in the organised. Government efforts to return have continued, and some progress has been made so far.

New policies affect capital of Islamic militancy

By Tom Porteous

ASSIUT, Egypt — General Mohammad Samih Al Saeed likes to tell visitors about the most challenging moment in his military career when in the midst of the October 1973 war with Israel he was suddenly promoted to be chief of reconnaissance of the 3rd Army, then was pinned down by Israeli forces in Suez. Twenty years later he is again facing the odds, as governor of Assiut, Egypt's most rebellious province, dubbed the capital of Islamic fundamentalism.

A graduate of the prestigious Nasr Academy, a former military attache in Turkey and a man who has worked for many years in Egypt's intelligence establishment, Gen. Al Saeed feels that he has what it takes to handle the rebellion in Assiut. And judging from his performance since his appointment in April, he may be right.

Gen. Al Saeed took over this spring after one of the province's most turbulent years since the uprising there by Islamic militants which broke out after the assassination of President Sadat in 1981. For a year there have been almost weekly incidents of politically motivated violence in this poverty stricken region of southern Egypt.

At the centre of the trouble are the militant Gama'at Al Islamiyya, or Islamic Associations, and related groups which are struggling to overthrow the government of President Hosni Mubarak and replace it with their version of a fundamentalist Islamic state. Few people seriously believe that these groups are capable of overthrowing the government. But, in the past year, the Gama'at in southern Egypt have stepped up their operations, targeting members of the local Christian community, the security forces and foreign tourists. If not a major threat, the groups are now a serious irritant to the regime of President Mubarak.

The authorities have responded with tough security measures. Among the methods reported to have been used by the police are torture, mass detention, extrajudicial killings and collective punishment of the families of those suspected of terrorism and of whole villages or districts suspected of sympathizing with or harbouring militants. Critics of the government's iron-fist policy say it was more

appropriate to an army of occupation than to a national police force. Certainly the policy of collective punishment was losing popular support for the government in southern Egypt.

Since April, however, when Gen. Al Saeed took up the governorship of Assiut there has been a marked change in the attitude of the police. Gone is the heavy security presence in the provincial capital and surrounding villages, gone are the curfews which had disrupted normal life in the province. And the number of reported incidents of violence has dropped sharply.

"I hope we are going to make the incidents of terrorism less and less frequent," Gen. Al Saeed noted in an exclusive interview, "and as you will notice, we have made progress. Now terrorist acts are perpetrated by a few persons who are well known to the police.

The police are searching for them with a new policy, a calm policy, not with punishments of whole villages or towns as in the past, or punishments of the members of the terrorists' families. The police are now searching for the terrorists themselves, without involving the whole town as happened in Abu Tig and Dayrat."

Abu Tig and Dayrat, urban centres near Assiut, were the scenes of some of the worst violence in the months up to last April. In both places, but also in the rest of the province — as Gen. Al Saeed admits — the hardline methods of the police, by alienating the general population and creating widespread sympathy for the extremists ended up hampering the government's efforts to catch those responsible for attacks on tourists and police.

His priority, he says, is "to deal with the people" and to promote unity, meanwhile narrowing the credibility gap between the police and the people. Gen. Al Saeed, the first governor of Assiut in recent years to be drawn from the army rather than from the police, was appointed as part of a shake-up of the top officials responsible for waging the battle against extremists in Egypt. The former governor of Assiut, Police General Hassan Al Alf, was promoted to be minister of the interior, the third governor of Assiut to be promoted to Egypt's top security job. Meanwhile the former director of security in Assiut, whose iron-fist policy it was to execute the hardline policy of last summer and winter,



BAQT GIRGIS, pastor of the First Evangelical Church in Assiut, reports lessening of tensions between local people and security forces

has been transferred, replaced by Police General Mahmoud Antar.

Together the minister, the governor and the director of security have been responsible for putting in place the new security policy. In a late night interview at his headquarters by the banks of the Nile, Gen. Antar explained the policy in these terms:

"Here in Assiut, I have approximately 45 people accused but who are on the run from the prosecutor and the courts. In addition there are about 25 people who are leaders of those groups. They are the ideologues who encourage and provoke criminal acts. Altogether we are after a total of 80 or 100 people maximum. It is my job to make a sharp distinction between them and the 3 million inhabitants of Assiut. In fact this is the security policy that we have started in the last few weeks. We identify the wrongdoers and separate them from the rest of the population. As a result, police measures affecting the everyday activities of the people are now reduced, and the appearance of the police has become less aggressive. We concentrate on investigating and identifying the criminal elements and catching them. I have nothing to do with the ordinary citizens."

Generally the middle class, government employees, teachers and other professionals acknowledge that they have felt the effect of the new policy and that it had improved the relationship between the police and the general public.

"As a citizen of Assiut," said Dr. Jamil Aboul Eila, vice president of the Assiut branch of Al Azhar University, "I have not only felt the new policy but I have been reassured by the new style, and the fruit of this style has been reflected in the attitude of the people. Assiut has calmed down completely and normal life has returned. In Dayrat, which was

the scene of some of the worst violence in the months up to last April. In both places, but also in the rest of the province — as Gen. Al Saeed admits — the hardline methods of the police, by alienating the general population and creating widespread sympathy for the extremists ended up hampering the government's efforts to catch those responsible for attacks on tourists and police.

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tor of the First Evangelical Church in Assiut. "It just happens that last night I was at the police centre for some church business and I witnessed how the policemen there treated citizens — in a very polite way. This has had a great impact and the people are now very responsive and cooperative with the authorities. Nobody was happy with the deterioration of the relationship between the people and the police. As Egyptians we like peace and we are by nature against terrorism and extremism and all those things which cause so much trouble."

Some younger Christians, however, are more pessimistic and openly express their desire to emigrate. Canada being a favourite destination. If the police take the pressure off the Islamic extremists, said one young Christian called Ayman, they will be free to return to their old ways of making trouble for the Christians, and the police will be tempted to turn a blind eye to avoid making waves.

So far such fears have not been justified. But the often suspicious attitudes of the Christian and Muslim communities towards one another do lend weight to the view, often put forward, that it is the presence of a sizeable Christian minority (about 35 per cent of the population) that is the largest of any province in Egypt which in part explains why religious extremism has found such fertile ground in Assiut.

"The Christians were in the past the rich of the region," says Gen. Antar. "Many of the poorer Muslims used to work for them in one capacity or another. With the revolution and development, the children of some of those poorer Muslims went to school and got an education and developed psychological complexes. The discontent was expressed by these groups with religious names which sponsored attacks on our Christian brothers; this contradicts the nature of the Egyptian people and contradicts the Islamic religion."

Another reason put forward by local people to explain the unusual level of violence in their province is the ancient tradition of vendetta, or blood feud. Even outside the context of political or sectarian violence, the honour of the family demands that a murder be revenged in kind. In southern Egypt, this principle has created a culture of violence, which has inevitably exacerbated the political and sectarian troubles of recent years, with blood feuds developing between Muslim and Christian communities and between police officers and members of the militant Islamic groups. Critics of the former police methods say that some of the excessive violence used by the police in apparent retribution for murders of officers can only be explained in terms of the tradition of vendetta.

"It is the problem of the kind of culture and traditions which exist in the countryside of the province of Assiut," says Mohammad Ibrahim Mansour, a senior professor at the faculty of commerce at Assiut University. "The tradition of vendetta is still widespread and it adds a particular edge to the political violence. In fact this is really one of the secrets why the problem of extremism is more acute here than elsewhere. Because the vendetta is part of people's value systems they see any confrontation between the Gama'at Al Islamiyya and the police or between the Gama'at Al Islamiyya and other citizens as having the nature of a vendetta."

Even members of the large Christian community in Assiut, who have most to fear from the long-term aims of the extremist militants and who initially welcomed the hardline clamp-down as a necessary protection, now say that it was counter-productive and they approve the new approach.

"For sure I can testify that this new policy has been felt by everybody," said Baqt Girgis, the pastor of the First Evangelical Church in Assiut. "It has been felt by everybody, from the old to the young, from the rich to the poor, from the educated to the uneducated. The tradition of vendetta runs so deep that some blood feuds between families have been continued for generations, literally



Mohammad Al Saeed

for hundreds of years, even though the original source of the feud is long forgotten. It is also an important reason why the people of the region are so heavily armed and so afraid in the use of guns.

The new governor, Gen. Al Saeed, admits that the tradition of vendetta has hampered the peacemaking efforts of the government, and he is clearly anxious to prevent the police from getting involved in blood feuds of the kind that can only increase the spiral of violence. In May, shortly after his appointment, some of the regional police commanders in the province were transferred and replaced by new men. Gen. Al Saeed is also anxious to impose stricter gun control in his province.

"The people in this part of Egypt are used to having weapons," says Gen. Al Saeed. "Everyone has his own pistol or his own rifle. They are very keen on firearms. It is a problem but we are planning to organise gun control. At present the extremists can buy arms almost anywhere. There is a free market for pistols, rifles and automatic guns. It is not difficult to get a weapon from a shop or from private citizens."

There are also relatively recent political factors which have encouraged the growth of Islamic extremism in Assiut, and Gen. Al Saeed freely acknowledges that some of the blame lies in the political manipulation of earlier governments. "It seems to me that this problem started here more than 15 years ago in the days of Mohammad Osman," says Gen. Al Saeed, referring to a former governor, a local of Assiut who was appointed by former President Sadat. Sadat encouraged the Gama'at Al Islamiyya as a political counter-weight to weaken the radical student opposition, then dominated by the Communist and Nasserist movements. Mohammad Osman executed this policy in Assiut with particular vigor, giving a free reign to the Gama'at Al Islamiyya.

"Maybe Osman thought he would build up the Islamic movement against the activities of the Communists," says Gen. Al Saeed, "but he didn't control it very well." This is something of an understatement. By 1981, the Islamic movement was not only strong, it was in firm opposition to President Sadat's foreign and economic policies. It was militants within the movement who assassinated Sadat in October of that year. After the assassination, the Islamic movement launched an armed rebellion in Assiut, storming and briefly occupying the headquarters of the director of security. The uprising was firmly put down by the army.

But underlying the phenomenon of political extremism in Assiut as well as the culture of violence manifested in the tradition of vendetta, are the pro-

vince's economic problems: poverty, unemployment, underdevelopment. One of the main challenges of the governor is to try to persuade the central government to allocate more resources to the region and to attract local and foreign private investors. "Of course the economic situation is one element which helps these extremist groups," says Gen. Al Saeed. "They can recruit from the unemployed by offering money. But now the government is looking after southern Egypt better than before. They are putting more money into the region and we hope that when the security situation has improved there will be more private investment coming to Assiut, from Egyptians and from abroad."

But economic development is likely to be an uphill struggle. Assiut, like the rest of the southern region, is not a top priority either for the public or for the

private sector. In fact the region has traditionally been either ignored or exploited by the economic planners and businessmen in Cairo. The one sector which has seen investment and some transitory profits — tourism — has been badly affected by the present troubles.

"In reality," says Professor Mansour of the faculty of commerce at Assiut University, "we have to look for the political, economic and social roots of this phenomenon in the nature of the society of Upper Egypt — a society where poverty and underdevelopment is widespread. The standard of living is very low and the rate of unemployment very high, especially in the villages; it's there that the phenomenon of militancy is most widespread. Assiut province has few natural and agricultural resources and little industry. Land ownership is not well distributed and the peasants' share of the agricultural

land is very small. In any case the amount of agricultural land in relation to the population is tiny because the province consists of a narrow strip of fertile land, the rest being desert. The only way out of the problem is expansion in the desert, east and west, and the creation of new industrial towns that could absorb the large number of graduates from secondary schools and universities."

Like Gen. Al Saeed, Professor Mansour does see some positive signs in recent promises of economic help from Cairo. But until such promises are realised, until a serious effort is made to improve the economic conditions of the vast majority and to create jobs for the thousands of young men and women who graduate each year, the political slogans of the extreme fringe of the Islamic opposition will continue to win converts, and Assiut will remain a centre for the extremist movement — World News Link.

Konica
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A child waits for her father to vote in the lower house parliamentary election Sunday at a Tokyo polling station. The Liberal Democratic Party failed to win a simple majority in the 511-seat chamber (AP photo)

Japanese party loses majority

(Continued from page 1)

outright majority in the election, but always managed to garner enough independent supporters. The Liberal Democrats lost their majority in the less powerful lower house in 1989 following an influence-buying scandal.

Perhaps discouraged by rainy

The German Protestant Institute for Archaeology in Amman offers a position for a secretary from Aug. 1. Fluent German and English is required, both spoken and written. Substantial knowledge of Arabic and some experience with computer work would be appreciated.

The weekly working-schedule is 30 hours with a 2-day weekend on Friday and Saturday.

Please apply by supplying C.V., references, photo etc. to the institute which will also give further information.

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German deficit could rise if recovery falters



Theo Waigel

BONN (R) — German Finance Minister Theo Waigel, who has been pointing to encouraging signs that the recession is ending, said Sunday that he would be forced to raise the budget deficit if the recovery faltered.

Mr. Waigel told Deutschlandfunk Radio that if it did not take hold as predicted, he would have to compensate for failing tax revenue by borrowing more.

"The automatic stabilising factors must take hold. That means that we, like all the countries around us, would have to accept a certain rise in the deficit," he said.

He called "realistic" new government forecasts that the fall in west Germany's gross domestic product (GDP) this year could be held to 1.5 per cent, compared to earlier forecasts of two to 2.5 per cent.

He ruled out the only alternative to raising borrowing — new taxes — as even worse for the economy. "The introduction of additional taxes at the current time, particularly direct taxes, is not economically sound," he said.

Bonn is forecasting a budget deficit of around 67 billion marks (\$39 billion) a year in 1993 and 1994. That could be lowered to 38 billion marks (\$22 billion) by 1997, provided GDP grows by one per cent next year.

The deficit reduction will be brought about by cutting over 20 billion marks (\$12 billion) in federal spending and new tax increases in 1995.

The government and some of Germany's leading economic think-tanks have said recently that the worst of the recession may be over, strengthening hopes for a modest recovery in 1994.

This would put Germany back on track for joining a single European currency later this decade, their last realignment.

Population growth will mean less food to go round — book

WASHINGTON (R) — There will be less to eat in coming years as worldwide food production fails to keep pace with burgeoning population growth, according to a book by the Worldwatch Institute released Saturday. The second edition of "Vital Signs: The Trends That Are Shaping Our Future," by the private environmental think-tank, maps out a bleak future, noting that farms, livestock ranches and oceanic fisheries are all unable to further boost their production of food.

Mr. Waigel said he would like to see further cuts in the central bank's leading interest rates to fuel a recovery.

As he has often done in the past to dispel international criticism of German interest rates, Mr. Waigel noted that long-term rates were already near historical lows.

"I cannot be said that we are at a high interest rate country," he said. "But still I would, of course, be happy if further cuts in leading interest rates were possible."

He added that such cuts would have to be earned through sound fiscal policies and falling inflation. "Anything else would lead to weakness of the mark and that is exactly what we do not want."

Mr. Waigel said the Bundesbank must keep a close eye on inflation and money supply, as well as government financial policies.

"If there is relaxation in these areas, then, I believe, the Bundesbank will use the chance to lower interest rates further," he said.

Mr. Waigel also tried to take the wind out of the sails of currency speculators who have renewed attacks on the French franc and Danish crown.

"The European monetary system is working and I can only say the fundamental data in France as well as Germany are in order," he said, "and we will continue our good cooperation."

Mr. Waigel added that the Spanish, peseta and the Portuguese escudo had performed well since their last realignment.

lion tonnes in 1989, and per capita output falling seven per cent since then.

At the same time, 91 million people are added to the world's population each year, which means that their food needs can only be satisfied by reducing consumption among those already here, the book concludes.

The new data underlines the need to slow growth in the world's population, which is set to reach 10.7 billion by 2030 if current growth rates continue.

Vital signs also included data showing that:

The number of refugees in the world climbed to an all-time high of 18 million in 1992.

The world's wind power generating capacity doubled to 2,652 megawatts in the six years to 1992, and wind generators in California now produce enough energy to satisfy the residential needs of Washington and San Francisco.

Meat production, which rose 78 per cent from 1950 to 1990 to bring per capita meat production 32 kilograms from 18 kilograms, fell one per cent between 1990 and 1992.

Oceanic fisheries have also reached their limits, with the annual catch peaking at 100 mil-

China forcefully sells all state bonds

PEKING (R) — China finally sold all of this year's state bonds.

But only after the issue's embarrassing flop earlier this year forced Peking to roll back from reforms and order its workers to buy the paper.

The front page of Sunday's Communist Party newspaper People's Daily hailed the selling of 30 billion yuan (\$5.2 billion) worth of bonds.

"The masses positively supported (the issue) and leapt to buy" the bonds, it said, ignoring completely that employers in the end had to force their workers to purchase the paper.

The disastrous flop of the issue earlier this year hit at the heart of one of China's most important financial reforms: The 1991 decision to end forced government sales of bonds and float the state paper through an underwriting

syndicate.

But with inflation rising rapidly, people flocked to more glamorous and potentially far more lucrative investments in stocks and real estate, ignoring the fixed-interest bonds.

Finally the state raised interest rates twice and forced workers to buy the bonds.

In one Peking-based government organisation, for example, a worker who takes home 800 yuan (\$140) a month had to buy a 700 yuan (\$122) bond in July — and had no way to say no.

Other workers, too, had to use almost all of this month's paycheck to bail the government out of its financial trouble.

The forced sales did the trick — while by the end of May only 28 per cent of the issue had been sold, by July 16 the entire target had been reached.

It said some Asian countries were also encouraging an Arab role and investments in their oil industry.

Arab oil market to rise in Asia and Pacific — study

MANAMA (R) — Arab oil sales to the Asia-Pacific region should grow but the market in the West is mostly stagnant, a study by the Bahrain-based Arab Banking Corporation said.

Revenues from investment in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and three other Arab oil producers — Iraq, Libya and Algeria — plunged to 5.7 per cent of their total revenues of \$85.1 billion in 1991, the Abu Dhabi-based fund said in a report.

Oil provided 67.3 per cent of the revenues while taxes accounted for 18.8 per cent and other earnings for 8.2 per cent.

Before Kuwait was forced to sell more than half its overseas assets of around \$100 billion in

Gulf investment income sharply down after war

ABU DHABI (AFP) — A steep decline in Kuwait's overseas assets after the Iraqi invasion has sharply reduced income from investment in Gulf Arab states, according to the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF).

Revenues from investment in

the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and three other Arab oil producers — Iraq, Libya and Algeria — plunged to 5.7 per cent of their total revenues of \$85.1 billion in 1991, the Abu Dhabi-based fund said in a report.

Oil provided 67.3 per cent of the revenues while taxes accounted for 18.8 per cent and other earnings for 8.2 per cent.

Before Kuwait was forced to sell more than half its overseas assets of around \$100 billion in

come from investment in the nine nations stood at 14.6 per cent and was as high as 19.3 per cent in 1986.

Bankers attributed the high level in 1986 to a large drop in oil revenues — to \$45 billion after crude prices dipped to below \$10 a barrel as a result of a production war in the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

The AMF report said oil earnings accounted for 50 per cent of the total revenues of the 10 countries in 1986, for 62 per cent in 1989 and 68.4 per cent in 1990, when a sharp rise in oil prices during the Gulf war pushed up income to more than \$100 billion.

Before Kuwait was forced to sell more than half its overseas assets of around \$100 billion in

year, Iraq also had billions of dollars in overseas assets but were frozen by most countries after the invasion.

In contrast, oil was the lowest contributor to revenues in the remaining nine Arab League nations as most of them do not have oil. It provided 5.8 per cent of the total income of \$32 billion in 1991, the AMF said.

Tax earnings were as high as 68.6 per cent, while foreign aid stood at 4.2 per cent and other revenues at 21.4 per cent.

Iraq, Libya, Algeria and GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — produce more than 15 million barrels per day of oil. In the other group, only Egypt, Syria and Yemen produce crude in commercial quantities.

Foreign investment in India rises

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Foreign investment in India in 1991 stood at \$27 billion in significantly in the first half of 1993, according to official figures.

The first five months this year investment worth 3.02 billion rupees (\$1.1 billion) was approved by the government as against 3.90 billion rupees (\$1.29 billion) in 1992 and 5.3 billion (\$176 million) the previous year, an official release said.

More than 90 per cent of the investment was in high-priority areas such as power, oil, food processing, chemicals, electrical and electronics equipment, telecommunications, transportation, industrial and hotels, it added.

The United States is the biggest investor in India, with projects worth 19.42 billion rupees (\$647 million) in the pipeline for the first half of this year. U.S. investment in the country last year was worth 12.13 billion rupees (\$410 million), according to the release.

Investments from Australia, Britain, Germany, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Singapore, South Korea, Sweden and Switzerland have also shown a significant increase, the release added.

India has been opening its doors to foreign investors since Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao took power in June 1991 and launched a series of economic reforms.

The new economy plan announced early this month envisaged an economy growing an average of seven per cent a year. This would double per capita GNP to \$14,000 in five years and thus bring South Korea to the threshold of industrially advanced countries.

The slower recovery demonstrated in the second quarter was also due largely to sluggish investment in facilities and equipment, officials pointed out, although the Kim government had urged industrialists and entrepreneurs to invest heavily to revive the sagging economy.

BOK officials report that facility investment rate shrank 4.6 per cent during the second half after a dismal 10.1 per cent fall during the first quarter of the year.

under the government's new industrial policy.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in a statement that the largest number of proposals came from the United States (75), followed by Germany (64) and Britain (48).

U.S. investors also lead in investment with 118 million dollars, followed by Japan (\$57 million) and Switzerland (\$37 million).

India's industrial policy, announced in July 1991, provides for automatic clearance of direct investment proposals with 51 per cent foreign equity within 15 days, doing away with red tape.

Meanwhile, India's government has finally found a widely-acceptable solution to the sensitive issue of shutting down ailing industrial units, Labour Minister

Purno Sangma has said.

Mr. Sangma said the government was putting final touches to a bill which would leave negotiations over closures to employers and workers themselves, with the possibility of independent arbitration.

The new thing here is that the government will not be a party to disputes between workers and employers. Earlier the government played a pivotal role in all such disputes," Mr. Sangma told Reuters in an interview.

"The government role now is to provide infrastructure for development and lay down policy guidelines, and not be bogged down in disputes between labour and management."

"We have hit upon a formula neither unions or employers can reject, which at the same time causes least political damage to the government," Mr. Sangma said.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY JULY 19, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The New Moon in Leo offers you the opportunity to prove your intuition concerning what work must be done in order to achieve the success you are seeking. Certain labours are expected of you in business and personal life.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is your morning to get everything in apple pie order at your own residence and later don't be upset if you can't get special ingredients to work.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Your thoughts are clear and can be well expressed in companion. In the morning but later conditions at home can be a trial for your patience.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A new approach at your most powerful ambitions can be made to work well in the daytime but avoid trying to make them work in public later in the day.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21)

You can get into those practical interests and solve them sensibly in the daytime; while tonight you want to get off to some new interests but the timing is not yet right.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Think about what you can do to show a partner you are loyal and to be trusted while tonight don't try to match someone else's generosity.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Think about the various and sundry activities at which you can show your operative skill after which don't try to get a partner to do your bidding.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) If you have some entertainment that you have missed, make

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) This is your morning to get into ways to do what will increase your income and property later than you can't get special ingredients to work.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Take some time out now to find out how to bring your fondest aims right into your orb of expression and later use economy in expenditures.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Consider what your very down to earth ambitions are and avoid wishful thinking but later you can find ways to improve and revitalise your health.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Consult with a purposeful friend who has your interests at heart how to get ahead more quickly and then get into annoying practical part you must do.

THE BETTER HALF

By Glasberger

GLASBERGEN



"Activists are picketing the drugstore because mouthwash kills millions of innocent germs!"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NADDY

YOSIN

SAURES

REBURB

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: THE

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: VAGUE ROACH EMBRYO ARCADE

Answer: The thing that every woman hopes doesn't show—HER AGE

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: VAGUE ROACH EMBRYO ARCADE

Answer: The thing that every woman hopes doesn't show—HER AGE

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: VAGUE ROACH EMBRYO ARCADE

Answer: The thing that every woman hopes doesn't show—HER AGE

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: VAGUE ROACH EMBRYO ARCADE

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ARAB BANK	150,120	44.265	44.965	44.965	44.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	7,241	6.979	6.962	6.962	6.960
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL BANK	10,400	44.265	44.965	44.965	44.000
BANK OF JORDAN	53,507	2.162	2.152	2.152	2.150
NIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	216,057	4.982	4.982	4.982	4.980
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	48,450	5.016	5.022	5.022	5.020
JORDAN AGRICULT BANK	34,585	4.954	4.954	4.954	4.950
ARAB JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	31,731	1.122	1.122	1.122	1.120
INDUSTRIAL BANK	1,340	6.951	6.952	6.952	6.950
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCIAL BANK	35,151	4.954	4.954	4.954	4.950
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION-JORDAN	1,370	6.951	6.952	6.952	6.950
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	102,071	3.143	3.120	3.120	3.118
ARABIA BANK	12,220	6.951	6.952	6.952	6.950
ARABIAN OIL INSTANCE	97,487	4.132	4.128	4.128	4.126
JORDANIAN INSURANCE	19,833	3.365	3.365	3.365	3.360
JORDANIAN LIFE INSURANCE	400	3.325	3.325	3.325	3.320
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	1,510	3.325	3.325	3.325	3.320
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	45,480	1.765	1.765	1.765	1.760
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	5,171	1.122	1.122	1.122	1.120
JORDAN POWER DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	1,340	6.951	6.952	6.952	6.950
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	56,621	5.120	5.120	5.120	5.120
ARABIA HOTELS & HOTEL COMPLEX	1,370	6.951	6.952	6.952	6.950
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	14,751	6.951	6.952	6.952	6.950
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	29,107	1.952	1.952	1.952	1.950
ARAB INVESTMENT HOLDING	1,725	3.325	3.325	3.325	3.320
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	6,738	1.092	1.092	1.092	1.090
ARAB UNION HOTELS & CONVENTION CENTER	22,613	2.445	2.445	2.445	2.405
ARAB UNION FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	9,486	2.790	2.790	2.790	2.790
ATTAKHEIM CONST. MATERIAL MANUFACTURER	24,999	2.365	2.365	2.365	2.310
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	107,958	3.105	3.105	3.105	3.065
WAGHAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	12,220	6.951	6.952	6.952	6.950
THE INDUSTRIAL CHEMICAL & AGRICULTURAL	10,794	6.951	6.952	6.952	6.950
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	1,068	3.325	3.325	3.325	3.320
JORDAN DAIRY	62,837	1.952	1.952	1.952	1.950
THE JORDAN PIPE MANUFACTURING	93,731	4.777	4.777	4.777	4.720
THE JORDAN PLASTIC & POLYCARBONATE FACTORIES	11,635	2.155	2.155	2.155	2.150
ARAB CHEMICAL REACTANTS INDUSTRIES	3,125	2.155	2.155	2.155	2.150
SPINNING & WEAVING INDUSTRIES	11,285	3.025	3.025	3.025	3.020
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	7,125	5.120	5.120	5.120	5.120
JORDANIAN DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	163,733	21.393	21.393	21.393	21.385
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRIES	10,967	3.325	3.325	3.325	3.320
CENTRAL INVESTMENT	2,046	3.325	3.325	3.325	3.320
JORDAN MEDICAL EQUIPMENT	1,068	2.155	2.155	2.155	2.150
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRY	32,519	2.260	2.260	2.260	2.260
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	24,168	1.110	1.110	1.110	1.110
JORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	16,426	2.155	2.155	2.155	2.150
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	59,132	6.443	6.443	6.443	6.420
JORDANIAN CHEMICALS & PLASTICS	23,447	2.155	2.155	2.155	2.150
JORDANIAN PLASTIC & CHEMICALS	762	1.110	1.110	1.110	1.100
NATIONAL CARB & WIRE MANUFACTURING	13,121	3.025	3.025	3.025	3.020
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	6,568	12.355	12.355	12.355	12.350
JORDAN MOULDING CO. FOR AGR. & FOOD PROD.	16,405	4.210	4.210	4.210	4.205
RAHATLIL INVESTMENT FOR AGR. & FOOD PROD.	45,438	3.100	3.100	3.100	3.080
UNIVERSAL MOLD INDUSTRIES	46,567	5.980	5.980	5.980	5.950
GRAND TOTAL	2,731,196				
NUMBER OF COMPANIES SHARED IN PARALLEL MARKET	1	61859			
TRADED VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET	1	158881			

Gulf Arab official slams Japan on economic cooperation

ABU DHABI (AFP) — A senior Gulf Arab official has launched a rare attack on Japan, accusing it of not investing enough and lacking interest in attracting funds from the region.

Abdullah Al Ouwaiz, Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) assistant secretary general for economic affairs, blamed Japan for the failure of talks in Tokyo last month on economic and investment cooperation with the GCC.

"Unfortunately, the GCC states did not see anything new from the Japanese side at that meeting," said Mr. Ouwaiz, quoted by the official Qatari News Agency. "We urge Japan to set up more joint projects in the region, as it is our main economic and commercial partner."

The GCC states — Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — have been negotiating with industrial nations to acquire technology through joint ventures part of efforts to diversify their oil-dependent economies.

But several meetings with the United States and the European Community (EC) have failed to produce concrete results, and the GCC has accused them of lacking interest and regarding the region solely as a market for their products.

The talks with Japan and a similar meeting with China in Peking late last year followed a row with the West over proposed energy taxes, which GCC states

Bahrain budget deficit figure reduced

MANAMA (R) — The government of Bahrain reported Sunday a 1992 budget deficit figure that was substantially lower than an estimate made at the end of 1992.

The Bahrain Monetary Agency (BMA) said the budget deficit rose to 71.8 million dinars (\$190.3 million) last year from 22.5 million (\$59.6 million) in 1991.

Bahrain finance minister Ibrahim Abdul Karim had estimated at a news conference on Dec. 30 that the 1992 deficit would hit 131.2 million dinars (\$347.7 million) on revenue of \$98 million (\$1.32 billion) and spending of \$29 million (\$1.67 billion).

A BMA news release giving the highlights of its annual report, which is not yet publicly available, said government revenues had held steady at \$11.8 million dinars (\$1.36 million) while spending rose to \$83.6 million from \$9.5 billion (\$54.3 million) in 1991.

The majority of Bahrain's income comes from oil, but it is nowhere near as rich as its Gulf neighbours.

Japan's imports grew by only 1.24 per cent and 0.8 per cent in 1991 and 1992, he said, while GCC imports from Tokyo soared by 24.2 per cent and 43.9 per cent in the same period.

"The slow growth in GCC exports to Japan is due to lower oil supplies and a decline in crude prices," he said.

CBJ: Jordan's GNP in '92 reached JD 3,158.6 m

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's gross national product (GNP) was estimated to have grown to JD 3,158.6 million during the year 1992, Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) figures show.

The statistic bulletin of the CBJ, based on figures provided by the Department of Statistics, said industries, including the services sector, contributed JD 2,253.8 million to the GNP, followed by producers of government services with JD 555 million, producers of private non-profit services with JD 27.6 million and domestic services of households with JD 7.4 million.

After reducing imputed bank service charges of JD 61.4 million, the GNP at factor cost was JD 2,782.4 million compared with JD 2,473.8 million in 1991. With the addition of indirect taxes of JD 474.6 million (JD 339.2 million in 1991), the figure rose to JD 3,257 million (JD 2,779.4 million in 1991), but with a minus JD 98.4 million (JD 220.3 million) in net factor income from abroad, the GNP at market prices was estimated at JD 3,158.6 million compared with JD 2,559.1 million in 1991.

The bulletin gave a split-up of the input of industries into the GNP as:

— Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing — JD 204 million (JD 174.3 million in 1991)
— Mining and quarrying — JD 116.1 million (JD 124.9 million).
— Economists attributed the decline to the plunge in international prices of phosphates in

ducing imported banking services of JD 40.7 million (JD 37.7 million in 1991), the GDP at factor cost stood at JD 1,884.4 million (JD 1,688.8 million in 1991).

With the addition of indirect taxes less subsidies of JD 314.6 million (JD 250.7 million in 1991), the GDP at producers' prices was estimated at JD 2,159 million for the year compared with JD 1,939.5 million in 1991.

A further split-up showed the contributors as:

— Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing — JD 142.7 million (JD 129.7 million in 1991)
— Mining and quarrying — JD 53.8 million (JD 54.1 million)

— Electricity and water — JD 61.7 million (JD 56.2 million)

— Construction — JD 164 million (JD 141.5 million)

— Wholesale and retail trade, restaurants and hotels — JD 71.7 million (JD 70.2 million)

— Transport, storage and communication — JD 280.11 million (JD 247.8 million)

— Finance, insurance, real estate and business services — JD 386.3 million (JD 358.5 million); and

— Community, social and personal services — JD 38.2 million (JD 40.1 million).

CORRECTION

IN A REPORT headlined: "Manufactured Goods Top Jordan's Imports" in Sunday's issue, the Jordan Times inadvertently said manufactured products constituted 39 per cent of the Kingdom's imports during 1992. The figure should have read 24 per cent.

Financial Jordan Times
Markets in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

Foreign Exchange Market Summary (July 12 - July 16, 1993)

AMMAN — The U.S. dollar ended slightly lower last week, closing 0.41 per cent lower against the mark and sterling, and 2.17 per cent lower against the yen.

The dollar had risen sharply Monday, against the backdrop of continued turmoil in the ERM, and speculation over a possible devaluation of the French franc against other European currencies. As observers maintained that a further drop in Deutsche mark interest rates, engineered by the Bundesbank, is the only way to avoid further pressure on the franc, demand for dollars pushed the U.S. currency to close at 1.7298 marks, 1.4770 dollars to the pound sterling, and 109.35 yen.

The dollar retreated Tuesday, due to lack of consensus over the terms of the U.S.-Japan bilateral trade framework, reached after the recent G-7 summit, and aimed at reducing the Japanese trade surplus with the U.S. over the long-term. Incompatible statements made by representatives of the two countries fuelled expectations that the market had been too optimistic in its previous assessment of the applicability of the framework. The dollar also suffered as a result of the release of U.S. Producer Price data for June, revealing a 0.3 per cent decline, thereby dampening expectations of a Fed tightening move in the short-term. The dollar thus ended at 1.7185 marks, 1.4978 dollars to the pound sterling, and 107.95 yen.

The dollar hovered around its Tuesday closing levels for the remainder of the week, as it was effected by conflicting signals. Consumer price data, released Wednesday, revealed a small rise of 0.1 per cent in June, thereby providing further assurance that inflation in the U.S.

Izetbegovic rules out joining Geneva talks without ceasefire

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic Sunday ruled out attending renewed peace talks with international mediators in Geneva unless rebel Serbs stop offensives against Muslims.

Mr. Izetbegovic, speaking after meeting Russian peace envoy Vitaly Churkin, appeared to resolve confusion over whether the collective presidency he heads would join the talks before or only after key conditions were met by its civil war foes.

"We cannot go there if offensive activities in Bosnia continue, especially against Sarajevo," he told reporters.

"Under current conditions, I don't see that we could be ready to go today or tomorrow, but if we found ourselves at the negotiating table I'm convinced we might reach a settlement."

After a presidency session Saturday, Mr. Izetbegovic had seemed to open the door to fresh talks without preconditions by wavering on the wisdom of his own plan for peace — preserving Bosnia as a federation as opposed to a Serb-Croat plan for confederal division.

Bosnian government radio Sunday read out a statement made by Mr. Izetbegovic after a meeting of the collective presidency Saturday, in which he expressed doubts about its peace course.

"While I listened to the discussions I thought about two dilemmas. The first was, how realistic our suggestions are," the Muslim president was quoted by the radio as saying.

"Is a united Bosnia the way to peace or not? What is more important? How would the people

vote if they had to choose between these two things?" Mr. Izetbegovic went on.

"It seems at the moment that they cannot go together."

But Mr. Izetbegovic gave no hint as to whether Bosnia's 10-member presidency might now lead to the counter-proposal of rebel Serbs and Croats to divide Bosnia into three ethnically-based mini states in a loosely-confederation.

The army said the Serbs were continuing heavy shelling Sunday from the northwest and from the south along a supply line leading from Trnovo, 20 kilometres (12 miles) south of Sarajevo, a town the Serbs captured from the Bosnian army on July 11, after fierce fighting.

Foreign observers counted at least 28 Serb tanks advancing toward Igman Saturday around the northwestern outskirts of Sarajevo.

Sarajevo radio reported that the Serbs fired some 2,000 shells Saturday as they fought for the mountain.

The Serbs have seized 70 per cent of Bosnia and the Croats 20 per cent, but government forces have counter-attacked in the past few days to capture several key towns from the Croats in central Bosnia.

Bosnian Serbs were advancing under cover of heavy shelling Sunday toward Mount Igman, a strategic slope overlooking Sarajevo, the Bosnian army reported.

The army's press centre admitted in a communiqué that the Serbs had broken through defence lines of the Bosnian army and had occupied the nearby hamlet of Golo Brdo.

Other Serb forces had broken through Bosnian army lines just south of the capital and were

advancing toward the villages of Ledici, Dobre Vode and Siljak, all in the foothills of Mount Igman, the army said.

The forested mountain looms over Sarajevo Airport, and is the only route for smuggling supplies through the Serb forces surrounding Sarajevo to or from government-held positions elsewhere in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The army said the Serbs were continuing heavy shelling Sunday as they closed in on the mountain from the northwest and from the south along a supply line leading from Trnovo, 20 kilometres (12 miles) south of Sarajevo, a town the Serbs captured from the Bosnian army on July 11, after fierce fighting.

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Meanwhile, European Community (EC) foreign ministers, casting around for ways to boost their influence in the Bosnian war, will debate Monday whether to turn up the diplomatic heat on Croatia.

Diplomats said several EC member states wanted Belgian Foreign Minister Willy Claes, current holder of the EC presidency, to visit former Yugoslavia and warn Croatia it risked economic sanctions if it did not change its behaviour.

However, they said the ministers were unlikely to impose sanctions now, and any threat for Mr. Claes to carry to Zagreb might be limited in the first instance to "dismembering Bosnia" through violence.

cancelling routine trade concessions.

Ministers will also debate the deteriorating situation on the ground in Bosnia, the growing difficulties in the way of humanitarian aid distribution and faltering efforts to fulfil a U.N. Security Council plan to turn some of the war's worst trouble-spots into "safe zones."

Apart from French and Dutch decisions to contribute in total about 1,200 more troops, there has been little response to a loudly-trumpeted pledge by the EC's summit in Copenhagen last month to contribute more men and money to making the safe zones a reality.

There was a diplomats' note in some EC diplomats' comments before Monday's regular ministerial meeting. "No one knows who will happen. Everyone is waiting for eve one else to move," said one. Another said there was little the EC could do when those they were trying to help seemed bent on bloodshed.

Croatia has crept higher up the West's cast of villains in the Bosnian conflict, sharing more of the blame with Serbia for the drive to carve up Bosnia on ethnic lines through violence and ethnic cleansing.

The EC warned on June 8 that they would "initiate restrictive measures against Croatia" if required.

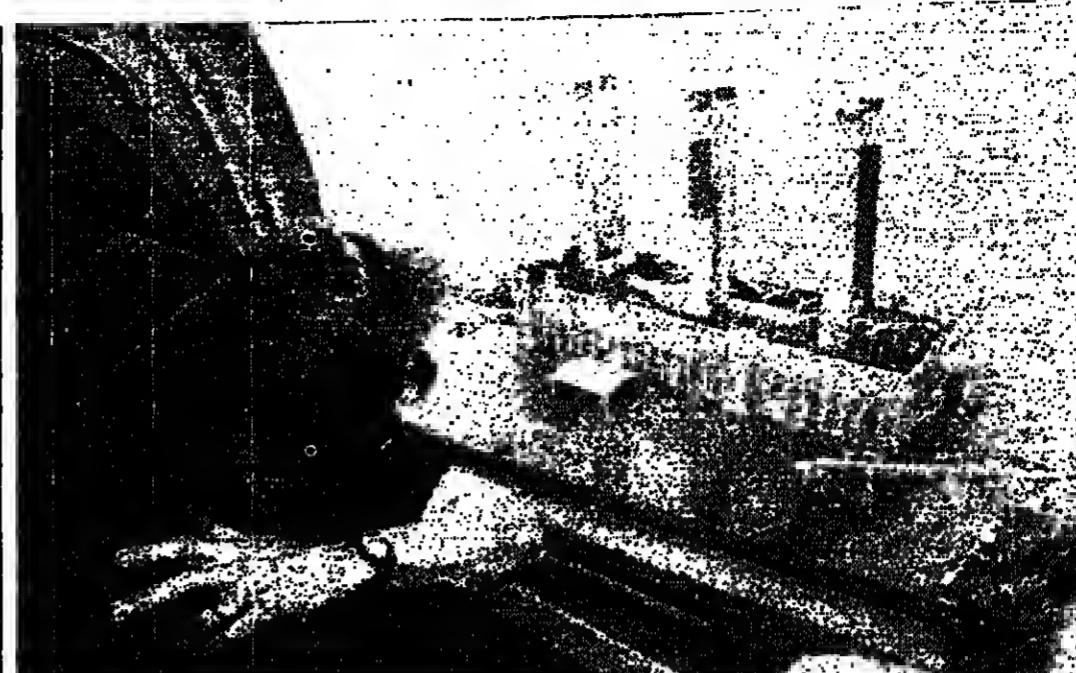
At their Tokyo summit this month, the Group of Seven (G7) rich industrial countries, which includes EC Germany; Britain, France, Germany and Italy, impeded Croatia and Serbia together in urging them to stop "dismembering Bosnia" through violence.

"Mother nature is having its way with us," he said.

The flooding blocked a key bridge Saturday, turning the Mississippi River into a 200-mile-long (320-kilometre-long) wall blocking east-west traffic.

Heavy rains fell in Iowa, the Dakotas, Minnesota, Illinois and as far west as Wyoming.

"It's economic devastation for the entire area," groaned Mayor Richard Schwartz of Hannibal, Mo., near the West Quincy, Mo., levee that failed Friday night, despite six weeks of work.



U.S. President Bill Clinton looks at a flooded power plant in the Mississippi-Missouri Rivers area near St. Louis (AFP photo)

More heavy rain falls in midwest as Clinton visits for 3rd time

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — No relief was sight after six weeks of the worst flooding in the United States this century, as storms dumped as much as 5 inches (12.5 centimetres) of rain across parts of the midwest.

President Bill Clinton said Saturday he may send in federal troops.

Mr. Clinton, who visited the region twice before in the last two weeks, shook his head as he leaned out of a helicopter and said where the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers had converged in St. Charles County, Mo.

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"It's economic devastation for the entire area," groaned Mayor Richard Schwartz of Hannibal, Mo., near the West Quincy, Mo., levee that failed Friday night, despite six weeks of work.

Flooding has been blamed for 27 deaths and more than \$5 billion in damage, with more than 10 million acres (40 million hectares) of farmland submerged. Bridges, roads and rail lines were shut, disrupting cargo shipments.

In Glasgow, Mo., the Army Corps of Engineers tried to repair a broken levee to keep the Missouri River from cutting a new channel and changing course.

Nearby, "sandbaggers worked to avert flooding where the Mississippi and Meramec Rivers meet. Crests on both rivers were expected in that area in the next couple of days.

The Des Moines River carved a 50-foot-wide (15-metre-wide) chunk from a levee near downtown Des Moines. The National Guard and other workers shored up the gap with dirt, sand, gravel, parts of downed trees and plastic sheeting.

Flash flooding struck sparsely populated areas of the eastern Dakotas. In northeastern South Dakota, a flood warning was posted for the James River, which flows into the Missouri River, after an area that got 3 inches (7.5 centimetres) of rain Friday got that much more Saturday.

The crisis didn't affect efforts to restore running water to 250,000 people in the Des Moines area who went without for a seventh day. The water plant is in a different part of town. One of its three pumps was flown back to the plant Saturday.

Mick Jagger celebrates 50 in revolutionary style

LONDON (R) — Rock'n'roll legend Mick Jagger celebrated his 50th birthday in style at the weekend — at a French revolutionary banquet. Up to 300 celebrities, including fellow Rolling Stones Keith Richards, Ron Wood, Charlie Watts and Bill Wyman, gathered at the grounds of a suburban London teaching college complete with a guillotine to help Jagger celebrate. The ageing rebel of the early 60s, who hits the half century mark on July 26, was dressed for the theme but refused to be photographed. Other guests were not so shy. "Charlie Watts showed a certain flair, arriving as Robespierre, while Ronnie Wood's Napoleonic officer's costume, complete with tricorn hat, was more historically dubious," the Mail on Sunday said. The one-time 'bad boy' of rock who is now a grandfather partied till the early hours with his Texan wife, fashion model Jerry Hall, who was dressed as ... Marie-Antoinette. "He and Jerry finally called it a night at 6 a.m. and slipped out the back door. Not bad for a 50-year-old," the Mail added.

Kenyan policeman gets 50 years for rape

NAIROBI (R) — Police Corporal Philemon Ombitsa, 47, was sentenced to 50 years jail Saturday and ordered to receive 100 strokes of the cane for raping a pregnant woman, the Kenya News Agency reported Sunday. Ombitsa, married with 11 children, had denied the charge. The incident occurred at Kajado, 50 kilometres south of Nairobi.

China finds new treatment for heroin addicts

PEKING (AFP) — China has discovered a new method of treating heroin addicts that avoids the formation of a new dependency, the official Xinhua News Agency reported Sunday. Keleming, a medicine usually used to lower blood pressure, has been used to cure more than 200 people in six treatment centres in central Shaanxi and southwestern Yunnan provinces, the agency quoted Jiang Zuoning, a medical doctor, as saying. The treatment has been approved by China's Ministry of Public Health and is effective, fast-working and safe. Parliament stopped short of impeaching Mr. Elchibey Saturday for his role in the bloody June clashes which followed the government troops' attempt to quell rebel forces.

Deputies postponed a decision on Mr. Elchibey's fate until next week but said he bore political responsibility for the clash, in which at least 35 people were killed.

On Friday, a parliament commission studying the Gyandzha events recommended the indictment of several former ministers and top officials for their alleged role in the fighting, in which at least 35 people were killed.

Washington condemned the move and urged the parliament's chairman and Mr. Aliyev to stick to assurances he had given Washington over democracy in Azerbaijan.

Tajikistan rebels stage another border attack

MOSCOW (AP) — Tajik Islamic rebels based in Afghanistan fired rockets at Russian Border Guard units stationed along the border with Tajikistan in the latest of a string of attacks, the Interfax News Agency reported Sunday.

The eight rockets fired Saturday caused no casualties, and he Russian troops at the Tajik border post failed to destroy the guerrilla batteries tucked away in the region's mountainous terrain, Interfax said, quoting the high command of the Russian Border Guard.

The commander of the Russian army, General Vladimir Semenov, just back from a trip to the region along with Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, said Russia's 201st Motorised Rifle Division, based in Tajikistan, would be strengthened to help the Border Guard.

Meanwhile, Afghan rebels opposed to the pro-Communist leadership in Dushanbe, the Tajik capital, were chased out of Tajikistan in a violent government crackdown late last year. They have since found refuge in Mujahideen-run camps in the northern provinces of Afghanistan.

A Afghan government spokesman said the cabinet had decided to ask the United Nations to halt deployment of Russian forces along the border and suggested talks to solve the problem.

Russians claim win in Estonia referendum

NARVA, Estonia (R) — Russian-speakers in two Estonian towns Sunday claimed victory in a weekend referendum after local people voted overwhelmingly for territorial autonomy within the ex-Soviet Baltic state.

Over 97 per cent of Narva voters and 96.6 per cent of voters in nearby Sillamae supported autonomy. But low turnout — just over the 50 per cent threshold needed — provided the poll's chief opponent, the Estonia government, with fresh ammunition.

Estonia's Foreign Ministry quickly accused referendum organisers of falsifying the results, saying that less than half the population had actually voted. Balfax News Agency said the government has declared the Russians' poll illegal.

"Turnout was desperately low and there have been serious violations in the procedure," government representative Indrek Tarand told journalists after making an unexpected appearance at an election news conference.

now being run by acting President Geidar Aliyev, a former Soviet politburo member, and by rebel leader turned Prime Minister Suren Guseinov.

The Popular Front spokesman said that on Saturday evening police fired automatic rifles into the air to break up a pro-Elchibey demonstration and used truncheons to disperse a crowd of a few hundred people. No-one was injured.

Azerbaijan's Turan News Agency said about 30 people had been arrested. Police have broken up several pro-Elchibey protests since the president escaped.

Mr. Elchibey's former security and interior ministers and ex-head of parliament Isa Gambarov were detained Friday, during a parliament session in Baku, accused of provoking the conflict

which started when government troops tried to dislodge the rebels.

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Washington condemned the move and urged the parliament's chairman and Mr. Aliyev to stick to assurances he had given Washington over democracy in Azerbaijan.

Major faces cabinet split on Maastricht Treaty

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister John Major started the most crucial weeks of his leadership, facing a split in his cabinet over the Maastricht Treaty on European union, news papers said Sunday.

Conservative Euro-rebels are willing to vote with the Labour opposition in a crucial vote Thursday in a debate on the government's opt-out of the treaty's social chapter which governs welfare and Labour organisations in the European Community.

"At least 12 hardline Tories (Conservative) Euro-sceptics say they will vote for a Labour amendment requiring the government to accept the treaty's social chapter," the Sunday Times said.

"The Tory rebels are opposed to the chapter but hope to force the government to drop the whole treaty rather than accept the Labour amendment," it said.

The Observer said senior right-wing ministers are making it clear that they would not accept the social chapter in the treaty after Thursday's vote. With a slim majority of 18 members in the 651-seat House of Commons, Mr. Major faces possible defeat.

Most appeared tired and ragged as they ended their grueling, three-month voyage across the Pacific. "On their faces, there was a look of sadness and uncertainty," said Rosa Guadalupe Alvarez, a Mexican army nurse who treated some of the passengers.

Many could be seen crying as they were bused out of Ensenada. Fifty-eight passengers applied for political asylum while the ships were in U.S. Coast Guard custody, but only one was admitted into the United States Friday. Media reports said Mr. Major and government ministers spent much of the weekend trying to win the support of the Euro-

NEWS IN BRIEF

Japan's quake toll rises to 174

TOKYO (AP) — The death toll from the strongest earthquake recorded in the Sea of Japan hit 174 Sunday with 74 others missing, while new data suggested that an island had subsided in the temblor. Aftershocks continued to rumble through Okushiri Island, the hardest hit by the quake six days ago, while construction of 100 makeshift houses began for some of its 4,700 islanders. The body of a 92-year-old man was plucked from waters as more than 100 divers joined a 300-strong land and sea search operation involving 42 patrol boats around Okushiri, which lies to the west of Japan's main northern island of Hokkaido. On Okushiri alone, 148 were listed dead and 67 others missing in the quake which struck with a Richter scale magnitude of 7.8, police said. Hokkaido's regional maritime safety authorities said the seabed at Okushiri's main port was found to have subsided up to 80 centimetres (32 inches). On Friday, the Tokyo University Seismology Institute said that the foundation of the island as a whole had subsided by some 50 centimetres (20 inches) in the quake.

ANC bodyguard killed by S. African police

JOHANNESBURG (R) — An ANC bodyguard was killed and two others were hurt early Sunday when police traded shots with securitymen escorting a senior ANC official home from Nelson Mandela's 75th birthday party. Police said the African National Congress (ANC) guards fired first. The ANC said it was the police who initiated the shooting on a highway leading to Soweto township. An ANC statement said the incident occurred in the early morning when an unmarked police car tried to break into a three-car convoy escorting ANC Deputy President Walter Sisulu home from the birthday dinner. "When the lead vehicle of the security escort slowed to force the unidentified vehicle to move away from the ANC deputy president's vehicle, shots were fired and subsequently died, resulting in the car overturning. The other occupants were also seriously injured," the ANC said. The ANC said it was the second time police had threatened Mr. Sisulu's safety on the road.

ANC Women's League suspends Mrs. Mandela

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — The ANC Women's League Sunday suspended Winnie Mandela for a year, dealing another harsh blow to her attempted political comeback. Even before the

announcement, Sunday was expected to be a bitter day for Mrs. Mandela, estranged wife of African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela. Mrs. Mandela, once called the "mother of the nation" by black activists, has been dogged by controversy and ANC leaders now see her as a liability and have distanced themselves from her. The Women's League said Mrs. Mandela and four other women suspended along with her had "put the ANC and the Women's League to dispute" and damaged the organisation financially and politically.

FBI director told to resign

Amman Little League to play in Germany

AMMAN (J.T.) — A 14-member team (aged 11 and 12 years old) will represent Jordan at the International Little League Baseball European/Mediterranean play-offs in Germany, starting on July 23, the Amman Little League Association said Sunday.

The players, from Jordan, the United States and Lebanon, played in this year's spring baseball season in Amman and have received extra training during the last two months, the Association said in a press release.



The photograph shows the Jordanian team at their American Community School training field (Photo by Ainsley Floyd for the Jordan Times)

McColgan shock hits Britain's hopes

BIRMINGHAM, England (AFP) — Liz McColgan has been forced to pull out of next month's World Championships in Stuttgart.

The reigning 10,000 metres champion is suffering from a hamstring injury.

But veteran Steve Cram was thrown a lifeline by the British athletics selectors here Sunday.

Cram and Olympic javelin bronze medallist Steve Backley were among around a dozen athletes who could still make the championship line-up, according to chief coach Frank Dick, if they can prove their form and fitness.

The selectors will meet again at the end of the month to review the situation.

McColgan has had a wretched season, failing in the London Marathon after starting as favourite and then withdrawing from the European Cup team with the same hamstring injury.

She had admitted: "I'll be disappointed not to be able to defend my title, but I would not go

just to win a medal, I would only go if I felt I could win."

Cram, a disappointing fourth Saturday in the British trials, will have to hunt round European tracks to gain the mark if he is to earn a place, while trial winner Matthew Yates, the only 1,500m man named, will also have to quickly reach the qualifying standard of 3mins 36.50secs.

World 400m silver medallist Roger Black, suffering from a viral illness, has been named only in the relay and must prove his fitness, as must Backley, sidelined by shoulder trouble all year, and Olympic sprint hurdles finalist Hingrie Teape.

Curtis Rohr, Britain's best young middle distance hope, has also been picked provisionally in the 800m, while trial absentees David Grindley, javelin thrower Mick Hill and 10,000m man Eamonn Martin, recovering from a foot injury, are all likely to join the team if they are fit.

"We will be taking no walking wounded to Stuttgart," insisted

Dick. "But we're having to deal with a whole new ball game because, for the first time, we're seeing the ravages of a post-Olympic year which has placed such severe demands on athletes."

Dick, worried that athletes are facing burn-out from their over-crowded schedule, wants the IAAF to review the major championships.

Olympic champions and team captains Linford Christie and Sally Gunnell do not seem to have such worries. Christie, despite his misjudgement in Saturday's 200m which saw him eliminated in the heats, will double up in the Stuttgart sprints as expected, while Gunnell will start hot favourite in the one-lap hurdles.

Dick believes the injuries mean Britain could have less than 20 finalists in Stuttgart but estimates a team which boasts six individual European champions could pick up a possible 10 medals, compared to the seven won in Tokyo.

"The bike started to vibrate very badly on the final lap. I just eased back because I didn't want anything silly to happen."

The bike started to vibrate very badly on the final lap. I just eased back because I didn't want anything silly to happen."

Doohan claims first win of the season

MUGELLO, Italy (R) — Australian Michael Doohan put his injury nightmares behind him to claim his first win of the season in the San Marino 500cc Motorcycle Grand Prix Sunday.

Doohan won easily after World Championship leader Kevin Schwantz, in front with just over a lap to go, suffered mechanical problems with his Suzuki.

Schwartz held on for second place, ahead of fellow-American Wayne Rainey, his only real challenger for the world title.

Schwartz now has 192 points, 23 ahead of Rainey with five races to go.

"I can tell you this is a good feeling," said Honda rider Doohan, who had not won since breaking his leg in a bad crash at the Dutch Grand Prix last year.

"I hope to get a few more wins

under my belt before the season is out," added Doohan, whose injury last season robbed him of the world title.

He almost came off on the seventh lap at this Tuscan circuit, doing superbly to hang on to his bike after taking a corner in the wrong gear.

"I got into a bad slide and thought I was about to crash out," he admitted.

Japanese Yamaha Rider Tsutomu Udagawa, in his first season in the class, was not so lucky.

He was taken away in an ambulance after crashing on the 23rd and final lap. There was no immediate word on his condition.

The race had been a straight fight between Doohan and Schwartz with the American looking set to come out on top until his bike let him down.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSCH

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SHED SOME LIGHT

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♦ K J
♦ 6 2
♦ 7 4 3
♦ A K 10 9 6
WEST EAST
♦ 10 9 6 5 2 ♦ 7 6 4 3
♦ 9 7 4 3 ♦ J 10 8
♦ K 5 ♦ Q J 10 9
♦ 6 4 ♦ 7 2
SOUTH
♦ A Q
♦ K Q 5
♦ A 6 6 2
♦ Q 5 3

The bidding:

South West North East
2 NT 4 ♦ Pass
4 NT Pass 7 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♦

Bill Root's *The Play of the Hand*

was voted the Best Bridge Book of

1990, and justifiably so. At present

he is working on a book on defense,

due to appear next year, and it rates

to be another award winner. Here's

a preview from the chapter on

discarding.

North's jump to four clubs was

Garber, asking for aces. When

South showed three, North elected

to go directly to seven no trump on the strength of his excellent trick-producing club suit.

"Sometimes you must discard to help your partner, instead of trying to save a trick yourself. Partner leads the ten of spades and declarer wins the first trick in hand with the ace. He then starts running the club suit and you (as East) have no discarding problems, but your partner may have. Your first discard (on the third club lead) should be the queen of diamonds, to tell partner that you have control of that suit. Look at the four hands so you can see how that helps partner."

"Before leading a red suit, declarer should consider a club suit to open spades, having them sometimes will carefully disregard a heart and allow him to win four heart tricks and make his bid. Suppose you were West and had to come down to five cards which five cards would you save? Without the signal it is tempting to throw a heart and save K 5 of diamonds, (but that would be fatal). Knowing that partner still has J 10 x of diamonds, it is easy to blank the king of diamonds and hold onto four hearts" (and declarer must go down).

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Carbajal retains WBC, IBF titles; Pendleton wins

LAS VEGAS (R) — Undefeated Michael Carbajal of the United States retained his World Boxing Council (WBC) and International Boxing Federation (IBF) light flyweight titles by stopping Kwang-Sun Kim of South Korea at two minutes, 23 seconds of the seventh round.

On the undercard, Freddie Pendleton of the United States was too quick for former champion Jorge Paez of Mexico and retained his IBF lightweight championship with a 12-round unanimous decision, despite fracturing his right hand in the sixth round.

Carbajal, in the second defence of the WBC title and eighth defence of his IBF crown, stopped Kim with a short left hook to the head. Kim crumpled to the canvas, got up and reeled around the ring, his head bobbing backward, until referee Richard Steele grabbed him to keep him from collapsing again.

Carbajal, 25, now 29-0 was leading on all three judges' scorecards.

Kim, 29, a gold medallist at the 1988 Seoul Olympics, was in only his eighth professional fight. Kim

now has a record of 6-2.

The taller Carbajal, a 7-1 favourite, controlled the first three rounds by methodically landing left jabs and combinations to Kim's head. By the end of the second round Kim's right eye was swollen shut.

Beginning in the fourth round, Kim was not throwing his left jab at all and began rushing in with both hands flailing. The awkward style blunted Carbajal's attack and he turned tentative, throwing far fewer punches, especially his right hand, which he threw only six times in the sixth round.

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weighed 108 pounds (49 kg).

Pendleton's next defence will be against number-one challenger Rafael Ruelas of the United States. The date will be set after Pendleton's hand heals.

Pendleton in the first defence of the title he won in January, used left jabs and combination rights to pepper the face of Paez, keeping the slower, shorter challenger from getting inside or landing more than one effective punch.

Pendleton knocked down Paez twice — once in the first with a right to the head and in the fourth round with a right-left to the chin. Paez also was cut in the corner of his left eye in the second round.

Pendleton, cut over the right eye in the 11th round, is now 35-17-4. But in the last six years, his record is 18-2.

Paez, the IBF featherweight champion from 1988-1990 and ranked sixth among lightweights entering this bout, is now 46-5-4.

This was his third unsuccessful attempt at winning a world lightweight title.

Pendleton, a 4-1-1 favourite, received \$250,000 and Paez, aged 27, got \$70,000.

Kankkunen wins Argentine Rally

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Juhu Kankkunen of Finland swept the Argentine Rally for Toyota but could not prevent Ford's Miki Biasion of Italy taking the lead in this season's World Championship.

Kankkunen, a triple world champion who had never won here, took the lead in the first superprime raced Wednesday night at a horse track in northwestern San Miguel De Tucuman and kept it until the rally ended in the central city of Cordoba.

With Biasion always breathing down his neck, the Finn clocked a total time of five hours, 32 minutes and 31 seconds on the 525 kilometres of special stages in the 1,636-kilometre rally winning the three legs of the competition.

The Italian struggled to shorten Kankkunen's lead but was literally left behind in the dust as the wind was too weak to blow away the cloud of dirt kicked up by the Finn's Toyota.

Biasion, known here as "the flying Italian" for having won three Argentine rallies, finished one minute and 54 seconds behind the winner.

His second-place finish made

him the frontrunner in this season's Drivers' Championship with 47 points.

Auriol moved up after Uruguayan Gustavo Treliel blew his Lancia's front right tire in one of the final stages. The South American, who finished virtually on three wheels, still managed to come in fourth.

The top-placed local racer was Carlos Menem Jr., the son of Argentina's president, who drove a Ford Escort to fifth place.

Mohammad Ibn Sulayem of the United Arab Emirates, also on a Ford, finished sixth and was the top-placed Group N racer.

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2 killed, 7 wounded in Cairo attack on general

Combined agency despatches

CAIRO — Two people were killed and seven wounded Sunday when suspected Muslim extremists opened fire on an army general in apparent revenge for the hanging of five radicals a day earlier.

One of the gunmen and a passerby were killed; the wounded were four civilians, two police and an army officer. Police and soldiers exchanged fire with the gunmen at two spots several blocks apart along a major highway.

Security officials at the scene said Major General Osman Shaheen, commander of Cairo's central military area, was not wounded in the attack.

The officials, who insisted on anonymity, said the attack on Gen. Shaheen was believed to be in revenge for the execution Saturday of five members of Al Gama'a Al Islamiya, the group linked to Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman.

Hours after the latest hangings, police experts defused two bombs late Saturday in the working-class district of Matariya, northern Cairo. The aborted attacks were also blamed on Islamic militants.

Gen. Shaheen escaped injury in the attack, which took place in the southern Cairo district of Old Egypt at the entrance to a highway leading to the suburb of Heliopolis and the airport.

Police said one of the assailants was killed along with a passerby, while two policemen were wounded.

Four bystanders and an army lieutenant were also wounded, according to the Interior Ministry, while witnesses said several cars were caught in the cross-fire.

Security forces captured two of

the gunmen, who had hidden in a cemetery to attack the general — military commander of the central region — said a military commander for the Cairo region.

But an unknown number of assailants were still on the run, the Interior Ministry said in a statement, without referring to the attempted assassination of the general.

An official source said they apparently mistook Gen. Shaheen for another general, Ahmad Abdullah, the chairman of military courts which have passed 13 death sentences against Islamic militants.

The five of the militants executed Saturday were found guilty of an aborted assassination bid against Information Minister Saifat Sherif denied that an army general had been the target of Sunday's shooting.

Cairo newspapers Sunday reported the arrest in New York of another follower of Sheikh Abdul Rahman but only one mentioned that he had been charged with plotting to kill President Mubarak.

Witnesses said Gen. Shaheen's driver just swerved out of the way in time to avoid the gunfire, but the assailants also fired on a patrol car in the area, wounding two policemen.

The two biggest state-owned newspapers, Al Ahram and Al Akhbar, and the largest opposition daily, Al Wafd, all failed to report the fact that Ahd Mohammad Haggag, 34, had been charged with plotting a suicide mission to murder Mr. Mubarak during a visit to New York.

Al Ahram said Mr. Haggag was accused of planning to kill "Arab personalities," Al Akhbar said "an Arab leader" and Al Wafd "an Arab president." Only the state-owned Al Gomhuria mentioned that the target was Mr. Mubarak.

Mr. Mubarak's spokesman, Mohammad Abdul Moneim, said he had no comment on the alleged plot.

The Interior Ministry named the two captured gunmen as Ragad Abdul Waliq Chehata, 31, and Mahmoud Salih Fahmi, 21.

Both come from southern Egypt, a stronghold of the underground Al Gama'a at the centre of a wave of violence to wreck the economy and topple the secular government, the ministry said.

The police and the Interior Ministry's intelligence service have taken almost all responsibility for fighting the militants, who have targeted police, Christians and tourists in a campaign to

overthrow the government.

But the regular armed forces have become involved in the last six months because scores of militant cases have been referred to military courts.

The courts have sentenced 21 men to death and all 14 in police custody have been hanged, the largest number of executions for political crimes in Egypt this century.

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IRAQI ANNIVERSARY: Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein (right) greets Revolutionary Command Council Vice-Chairman Izzat Ibrahim Saturday on the 25th anniversary of the rise to power of the Baath Party (AFP photo)

Egypt rights group condemns hangings

CAIRO (R) — An Egyptian human rights group condemned the government Sunday for hanging 14 Muslim militants, saying their deaths would inflame violence.

"Capital punishment will not solve the problem. Instead, it will increase violence," Bahaddin Hassan, chairman of the Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights (EOHR), told Reuters.

"The hangings of militants might inflame and strengthen the motivation of these groups to carry out more attacks to avenge their comrades who were hanged," he said after addressing a news conference on the EOHR's annual report.

Military courts have sentenced 21 militants to death in the last six months, all 14 of those in police custody have been hanged, five of them on Saturday, in the largest number of executions for political crimes in Egypt this century.

Mr. Hassan said Egypt's human rights record in 1992 was the worst in years and that 83 militants and police or troops were killed in confrontations.

The government is battling a wave of militant attacks that have devastated Egypt's tourist trade and caused losses of hundreds of millions of dollars.

Mr. Hassan said capital punishment could be a temporary deterrent to some followers but would

not stop the militant groups from working to achieve their aims in overthrowing the Egyptian government.

"The cycle of violence will not stop this way. The Islamic groups are not a mafia. They are organised groups based on religious foundations."

The rights group said Muslim fundamentalists were also to blame for deterioration of human rights by trying to impose their beliefs by force through attacking secular intellectuals, Christians and foreign tourists.

Mr. Hassan said military courts set up by President Hosni Mubarak under an anti-terrorism law to combat a rising wave of fundamentalist violence denied militants the right to appeal.

"We reject the trial of civilians in military courts. This is a clear violation of all human rights in international conventions because it deprived people from being tried by their natural judges," he said.

He accused the government of making draconian changes in the laws to permit its tough crackdown on the militants.

"In 1992 there was an unprecedented campaign to issue legislation and laws violating human rights procedures and several other laws under the pretext of combatting terrorism," he said.

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COLUMN

Winnie Mandela shuns Nelson's 75th birthday party

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Hundreds of South African business men paid \$155 a head to attend ANC President Nelson Mandela's lavish 75th birthday party Saturday evening, but a table set for his estranged wife and daughters remained empty. African National Congress (ANC) officials said about 650 of the 720 guests paid to attend the fund-raising dinner on the eve of Mandela's birthday Sunday. Twelve-seater tables were booked by all the country's major corporations, including banks, mining houses and television networks. Foreign ambassadors and former Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda, whose government hosted the ANC through almost 30 years of exile, also attended the dinner.

But a table set for Mandela's estranged wife, Winnie, and his daughters Zindzi and Zenani remained empty. Winnie Mandela addressed a convention of black social workers at another Johannesburg hotel and declined to comment to reporters on the lavish party thrown for her husband. South African newspapers reported earlier in the week that Winnie Mandela had a row with the ANC over the use of Mr. Mandela's birthday to raise funds for the organisation's election campaign. South African performers including P.J. Powers and Ladysmith Black Mambazo started the evening, which featured traditional African sorgum beer and a metre-wide birthday cake.

Robert Kennedy's son to wed staffer

BOSTON (R) — Congressman Joseph Kennedy, the eldest son of the late Senator Robert Kennedy, will marry Beth Kelly, a longtime member of his Washington staff, his office announced Saturday. The marriage is the second for the 40-year-old Kennedy, who has two twin 12-year-old sons from a first marriage. It will be the first for Kelly. The wedding date will be set later this year.

'Fergie' gets injunction to stop cook spilling beans

LONDON (R) — The Duchess of York, estranged wife of Queen Elizabeth's second son Prince Andrew, was granted an injunction Saturday to prevent her former cook telling all about life in her household. The high court order prevents Simone Beausset from publishing her memoirs which she allegedly sold to a Sunday newspaper for \$10,000 (\$15,000). The Daily Mail newspaper said "Fergie" — Sarah Ferguson before her marriage — engaged libel law firm Peter Carter-Ruck and partners to block stories about the final months of her marriage when they were breaking up.

The referendum on self-determination in the territory was postponed from January 1992, with Polisario and Morocco at loggerheads as to who should take part.

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Yemeni foreign minister visits S. Arabia

JEDDAH (Agencies) —

Yemeni Foreign Minister Mohammad Saleh Bassandawa, the biggest ranking Yemeni official to visit Saudi Arabia since the Gulf war, arrived Sunday in this Red Sea port, Saudi officials said.

Mr. Bassandawa is carrying a personal message to King Fahd from the Yemeni president, General Ali Abdullah Saleh, on "ways to advance negotiations on the border dispute between the two countries, and to improve bilateral relations," an Yemeni diplomat in Riyadh told AFP.

Polisario delegates had described the Moroccan delegation, comprising nine heads of Sahrawi tribes loyal to Morocco, as lacking "all representativeness," an official source said.

The separatists pledged they would only resume with a "political and governmental delegation" from Monday, a source added.

It is Mr. Bassandawa's first visit to the kingdom since he was appointed foreign minister in May, following legislative elections on April 27.

The message is a reply to one sent by the king to Mr. Saleh in May, according to the Yemeni diplomat. That message, conveyed by Saudi Education Minister Abdul Aziz Al Khwaizir, also concerned the frontier dispute.

The dispute centres on the provinces of Najran, Jizan and Asir, currently controlled by Riyadh under the terms of the 1934 Taif accord. Sanaa claims the accord expired in September last year and refuses to renew it.

Experts from the two countries have met four times in the past year to try to resolve the matter, but have made no progress.

Saudi-Yemeni relations took a tumble after the 1991 Gulf war, when Yemen supported Iraq, and Sanaa has recently been trying to repair the damage caused by its Gulf war stance, exhorting richer Arab states to invest.

Gen. Aideed has been in hiding — probably in southern Mogadishu — since mid-June when U.N. special envoy Jonathan Howe ordered his arrest. That order came after a June 5 ambush by Aideed followers killed 24 Pakistani peacekeeping troops.

As the demonstrators listened to Gen. Aideed's statement, U.S. helicopters were seen above a neighbourhood about three kilometres away. The aircraft was supporting U.N. forces carrying out weapon searches.

Yemen has been seeking to improve relations with its Gulf neighbours since the country's support for Iraq.

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